



北京2008年奥运会总结报告·第二卷

奥运庆典

北京奥运会仪式及赛事综述

Ceremonies and Competitions:
Celebration of the Games

Official Report of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games • Volume II



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Ceremonies and Competitions:
Celebration of the Games

Official Report of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games • Volume II

第29届奥林匹克运动会组织委员会
Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad



March 24, 2008 – The Beijing Olympic flame lighting ceremony was held in Olympia, Greece





May 8 2008 – The mountaineer team, carrying the Olympic flame, strided over the second step of Mt. Qomolangma to embrace a new dawn





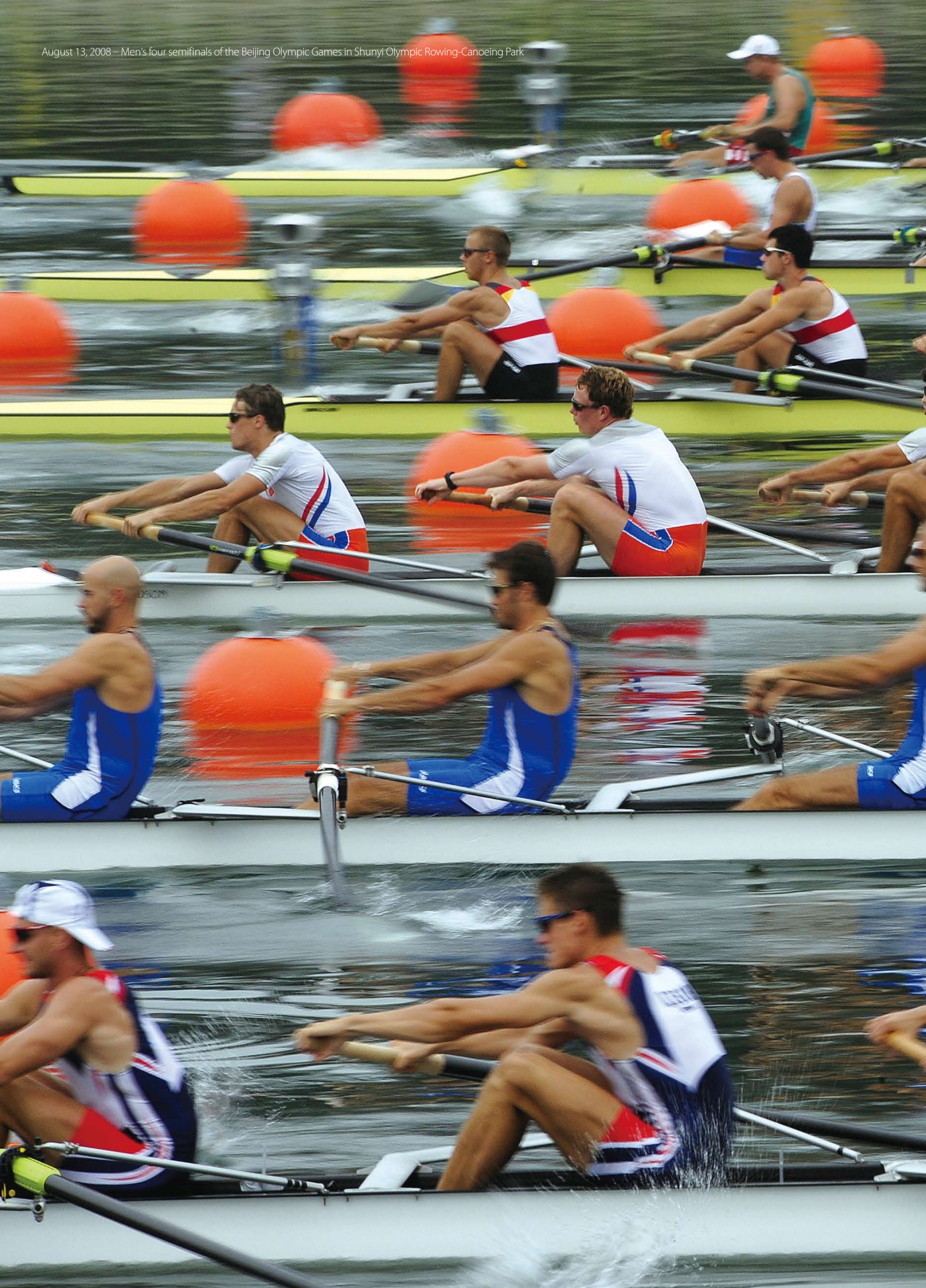
August 8, 2008 – Chinese President Hu Jintao and his wife Liu Yongqing hosted a banquet to welcome distinguished guests to the Beijing Olympic Games





Evening, August 8, 2008 – Fireworks show during the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games







Preamble

In accordance with the requirements of the *Olympic Charter* and the *Host City Contract*, the Beijing Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) compiles a four-volume *Official Report of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games*.

A chronicle of China's decade-long endeavours from launching the 2008 Olympic bid to a period after hosting the Games, the *Official Report* constitutes not only an important document analysing and summarising a "high-level Olympic Games with distinguishing features", but also a major legacy left by the Games.

Ceremonies and Competitions: Celebration of the Games is the second volume of the *Official Report of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games*, the other three volumes being *Bid Documents and Analysis: Passion behind the Bid* (Volume I); *Preparation for the Games: New Beijing Great Olympics* (Volume III) and *Games Results and Key Appendices: Truly Exceptional* (Volume IV).

Ceremonies and Competitions: Celebration of the Games, with some 300 pictures, keeps a detailed record of the grand occasions during the Games time. The nine-chapter volume presents a panoramic view of this "truly exceptional Games" in four sections: the Torch Relay, the Opening & Closing Ceremonies, the competitions and the Olympic legacy.

The first section includes Chapter 1, "Beijing – From Ancient Capital to Olympic City", a brief account of the host city of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and the overall preparations it has made for the Games, and Chapter 2, "Light the Passion, Share the Dream", which elaborates the Torch Relay on and outside the Chinese Mainland.

Chapter 3, "Opening Ceremony: A Gala of the World" can be taken as the second section of this volume, which reflects the grandeur of the Opening Ceremony.

Chapter 4, "The Games Unfold", also the third section of the volume, is a quick sketch of the brilliant athletes and their impressive performances that have demonstrated the real spirit of sportsmanship. Each day is also highlighted with four remarkable stories.

The rest of the volume constitutes the fourth section, reviewing other major issues during the Games time.

Chapter 5, "Comprehensive Games-time Service", introduces the work on transport, public security, medical care and tourism.



Chapter 6, "Volunteers", applauds the volunteers from home and abroad, who, with their dedication and hard work, have made great contribution to the success of the Games.

Chapter 7, "Colourful Life in the Olympic Village", depicts the athletes' diverse experiences off the sports arena.

Chapter 8, "Olympic Education", focuses on the Olympic-themed cultural activities and the Olympic Youth Camp.

Chapter 9, "The Olympic Legacy", reflects the Closing Ceremony of the Games and sums up the unique legacy left by the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games to China and the world.

The Torch Relay, the Opening Ceremony and the competitions are the highlights of this volume, which focus respectively on the Torch Relay linking different countries and culminating at the peak of Mount Qomolangma, the showcase of the time-honoured Olympic spirit and age-old Chinese civilisation, and the unforgettable persons and events at the Games time embodying peace, friendship and sportsmanship.

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Chapter 1

Beijing – From Ancient Capital to Olympic City

In April 1896, the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held in Athens, Greece. Since then, the Olympic philosophy of “mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play,” propelled by the burgeoning Olympic Movement, has been embraced by the whole world.

Having gone through an eventful century, the modern Olympic Movement finally beckoned to China. On the night of August 8, 2008, when the sacred flame was ignited at the National Stadium in Beijing, Chinese people’s century-old dream of hosting the Olympic Games came true at last, and the modern Olympic Movement as classic heritage of Western cultural traditions harmoniously blended with time-honoured grandeur of the Chinese civilisation.



1.1 Historical and Cultural Heritage



Beijing is the capital and political centre of the People's Republic of China. A world-renowned ancient city, it has long been the exemplar of China's splendid culture and home of innumerable historical relics and breathtaking landscape.

The Wanchun Pavilion (Pavilion of Everlasting Spring) on top of Jingshan Hill (Prospect Hill) in Jingshan Park north of the Forbidden City offers a spectacular panorama of the imperial capital.

At the centre is the Forbidden City, the grand royal palace complex in the old days. Surrounding the palace are row upon row of quadrangles (called siheyuan in Chinese), the most outstanding and fundamental structures of the Chinese architecture. These square courtyards, with grey-coloured brick-and-tile bungalows on all sides, are shaded by luxuriant trees which are similar to the waves of the green sea.

Running from Yongdingmen Gate (Gate of Eternal Stability) in the south to Zhonggulou (Drum &

Bell Towers) is an invisible "central axis" of the city proper. The 7.8-kilometre axis connects landmarks such as Zhengyangmen Gate (Gate of Noonday Sun), Tian'anmen Gate (Gate of Heavenly Peace), the Forbidden City, Jingshan Park and Di'anmen Gate (Gate of Earthly Peace). The tranquility of the green sea is then stirred by the golden glazed roofs and red painted walls of these magnificent constructions, which offers a strong aesthetic contrast.

The central axis constitutes the backbone for Beijing's urban development. It provides, in the world's architectural history, a rarely found yet classic example of integrating aesthetic elements into urban planning, and thus has received worldwide acclaim.

"Possibly the greatest single work of man on the face of the earth is Peking (the old spelling of Beijing)... it is so brilliant in design that it provides a rich storehouse of ideas for the city of today," wrote the American city planner Edmund N. Bacon in *Design of Cities*.

The Qianmen Embrasured Watchtower against the blue sky and white clouds



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1. The time-honoured Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant in Qianmen Street, Beijing, opens its door after refurbishment with new "China Elements"

2. April 10, 2006 – Performance of Peking Opera, the quintessence of the Chinese culture, to highlight the full-length exhibition "Experiencing London" and the establishment of sister-city relations between Beijing and London

The renowned Danish architect Steen Eiler Rasmussen also exclaimed in *Towns and Buildings*, saying, "The entire city is one of the wonders of the world, in its symmetry and clarity, a unique monument, the culmination of a great civilisation."

The Forbidden City, also known as the Palace Museum, is situated at the midpoint of the central axis and very heart of Beijing. Once residence for the 24 emperors of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, where they also held court and conducted audiences, it is now the largest and best preserved ancient palatial structure in the world.

With a succession of constructions neatly arranged in bilateral symmetry along the central axis, the sumptuous and grand imperial palace is regarded as the zenith of the Chinese architectural traditions.

The Palace Museum houses over one million cultural relics-one sixth of the country's treasure collection-and some of them are the only items of their kinds. The museum carries such profound historical, social and cultural significance that it has become a gem of the Chinese nation and the heritage of the world.

The Temple of Heaven in southern part of Beijing, set in royal gardens and surrounded by historic pine woods, is the largest preserved architectural complex in the world for worshipping heaven. First built in 1420, it was expanded later to cover an area of 273 hectares, where the Ming and Qing emperors presided over annual ceremonies of worshipping heaven and praying for the harvest.

In 1998, the Temple of Heaven was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was described as "a masterpiece of architecture and landscape design."

The Summer Palace, located on the northwest outskirts of Beijing, is one of the most beautiful imperial gardens in China, and is deemed a potent symbol of world civilisation.

The 293-hectare imperial garden is centred on Foxiangge (Tower of Buddhist Incense), and is dominated by Longevity Hill and Kunming Lake. It houses over 100 structures and some 20-odd courtyards where more than 3,000 pavilions, terraces, towers and corridors, as well as some 1,600 ancient trees of rare species, can be found.

Ingeniously conceived, the Summer Palace incorporates seamlessly artificial features into natural landscape of hills and open waters. The harmony of the works of humankind and nature best illustrates the quintessential philosophy of the traditional Chinese garden design: “the works of men should match the works of Heaven.”

Enjoying a history of more than 3,000 years and serving as the capital city for over 800 years for the Dynasties of Liao, Jin, Yuan, Ming, Qing, Beijing now boasts six UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, and the Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. In addition, nearly 100 historical sites are under the protection of the State Government and over 2,000 others are under the protection of the

Municipal Government.

The winding Great Wall on Badaling, the magnificent halls of the imperial palace, the glistening majestic lake (the Northern Sea, the Central Sea and the Southern Sea in the old city proper), the five grand altars (the Temple of Heaven, the Altar of Earth, the Temple of Sun, the Altar of Moon, and the Temple of Imperial Divinity), the eight enigmatic imperial temples (the Imperial Ancestral Shrine and the Temple of Confucius, etc.), the beautiful royal gardens, the elaborate Mansion of Prince Gong, the spacious quadrangles, the intricate streets and lanes, and the nostalgic hutongs (narrow alleys), each have their own unique stories to tell, be them chequered history or legendary tales, fascinating the listeners with the capital city’s profound civilisation.





August 8, 2007 – The one-year countdown anniversary of the Beijing Olympic Games:
The National Stadium (Bird's Nest) sparkles against the ancient Niang Niang temple

The cuisine of Beijing, influenced by culinary traditions from home and abroad, is the epitome of the local culture. Recipes from different regions and nationalities of the country, the private kitchens of the old aristocrats, and the imperial court, all have contributed to the sheer abundance and rich variety of the Beijing cuisine.

Many century-old restaurants can be found in Beijing, such as Quanjude, Donglaishun, Fangshan and Fengzeyuan, where Peking Roast Duck and the Manchu-Han Imperial Feast are served. Apart from these renowned dining places, there are many smaller restaurants famous for their own specialties. The city's snacks are also a special treat that should not be overlooked. Sold by little shops and street vendors, they should satisfy even the most westernised of palates.

Beijing is the cradle of Peking Opera, China's national opera. In 1790, the four famous Anhui (a province in the southeast China) opera troupes were summoned to the capital to perform for the 80th birthday of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty. Since then, the original art form has absorbed the elements of many other traditional performing arts and gradually evolved into the present-day Peking Opera. Throughout the years, various schools of Peking Opera have emerged, each with their own top-notch artists, whose performances have fascinated generation upon generation of audiences.

Singing, recitation, mime, and acrobatics compose the four major elements that unfold a story in Peking Opera. Well-worded lyrics, beautiful melody, elaborate costumes and colourful masks also add to its artistic appeal, making it one of the most significant forms of Chinese performing arts and the cream of Chinese culture.

For over 200 years, Peking Opera has retained popularity among the Chinese people. Today, small groups of fans may still gather to amuse themselves. Visitors to Beijing are quite likely to hear someone lustily singing the opera on various street corners.

Of course, the real ambience of the capital is best found in each and every detail of local residents' lives in hutongs and quadrangles. These people, men and women, young and old, have become "ambassadors" to communicate to newcomers the real charm of their hometown. With their warm hospitality and witty remarks, they have touched the world.

The Olympic Games in Beijing was a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the city's preservation initiative.

In 2003, the Municipal Government launched the *People's Olympics Cultural Heritage Preservation Plan*. In the five years that followed, RMB 120 million was invested annually into cultural relics protection, and the six World Heritage Sites became the first beneficiaries to renew their splendour.

By 2008, 139 historical and cultural sites with a total area of 330,000 square metres had been repaired. In the second half of 2007, the Municipal Government also introduced the initiative of bringing back the ambience of the old city proper, in which the first group of 44 hutongs and 1,474 quadrangles were renovated.

Beijing's endeavour to protect its cultural heritage was fully demonstrated in its planning of the Olympic Green and other venues.

According to the *Beijing City Master Plan (2004-2020)* approved by China's State Council, the landscape along the original central axis will be preserved, with the Forbidden City at its midpoint. At the same time, the axis will be extended north-and-southward to 25

kilometres to connect the Fifth Ring Road.

Extension of the central axis was achieved for the first time with venue projects for the Asian Games in Beijing in 1990, and it was further extended thanks to the construction of the Olympic Green and other Olympic venues.

Throughout venue construction, not a single historical or cultural site was affected as changes were frequently made to site selection to avoid these precious relics.

For example, to protect the Niang Niang Temple from the Ming Dynasty along the northern axis, construction of the National Aquatics Centre, dubbed the "Water Cube", was carried out 100 metres north of the originally selected site, and thanks to the ingenious conception of the designers, they now stand shoulder to shoulder against the city's skyline.

Based on the improved venue plan, the National Stadium, dubbed the "Bird's Nest", and the National Aquatics Centre settle on either side of the central axis, symbolising with their respective circular and square shapes the union of heaven and earth in traditional Chinese cosmology. The steel-framed Bird's Nest and the plastic-surfaced Water Cube, as well as the Niang Niang Temple nearby, merge into a harmonious landscape.

In the modern Olympic Village the Dragon Temple stands undisturbed, which dates back to the Qing Dynasty and houses many beautiful stories.

To protect a 200-year-old royal garden of the Qing Dynasty, as well as seven old pine trees, the plan for the Peking University Gymnasium (which was designated to host the table tennis events of the Beijing Olympic Games) was revised many times.



1.2 New Beijing with New Drama



“New Beijing, Great Olympics” was chosen as the bid slogan to crystallise the concepts behind the Games of the XXIX Olympiad. The city was confident in staging a high-level Olympic Games with distinguishing features and in creating a unique legacy to the Olympic Movement.

The Olympic Games has in turn become a catalyst to encourage Beijing’s modernisation drive.

The year 1978 witnessed the launch of China’s national policy of reform and opening up, which have since sparked the vigour and vitality of the nation. Thirty years have passed, and the implementation of the policy has helped rejuvenate the country’s economic strength, raised the people’s living standards and harmonise Chinese society.

As China’s capital, Beijing is also taking on a brand new look. With an efficient transportation system, advanced communications, bustling business districts and a thriving service industry, the capital city is on its journey to becoming

an international metropolis and is captivating the fascination of the whole world.

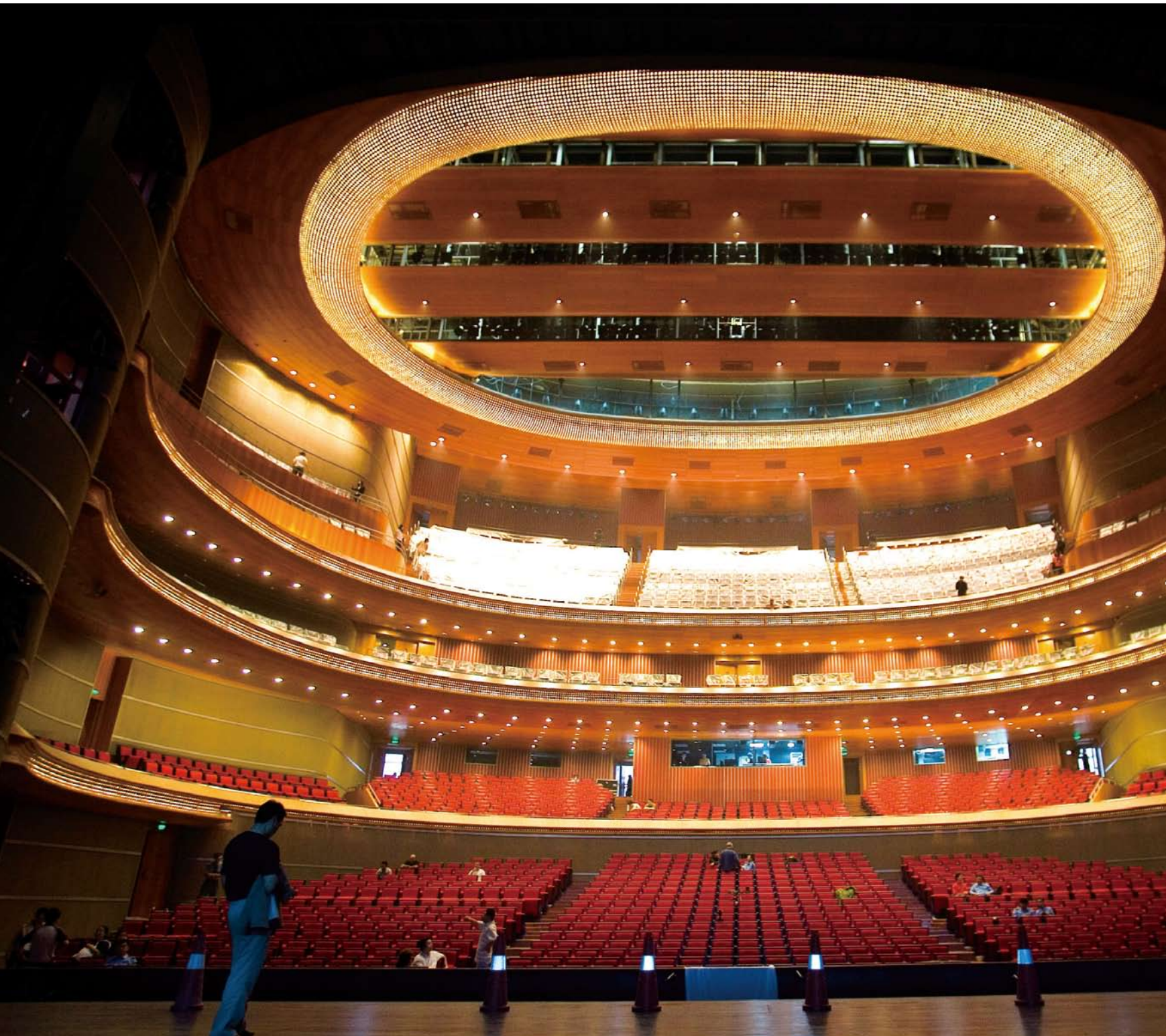
Chang’an Avenue, known as “the First Avenue in China”, is a traffic artery running from east to west in Beijing. Along the avenue and its extension are many shopping centres, cultural facilities and business plazas. CCTV’s new headquarters, BTV (Beijing Television Station), Beijing Fortune Plaza, Yintai Centre, and China World Trade Centre, as well as other gigantic structures, have become new landmarks of the capital.

The Central Business District (CBD) not far from the eastern section of Chang’an Avenue is the most vibrant area in Beijing, hosting a galaxy of business giants from home and abroad, many of which rank among the world’s top 500.

The Financial Street Area along the western section of Chang’an Avenue is home for many state-level financial regulatory authorities, including People’s Bank of China (China’s central bank), China Banking

A corner of the Changpu River Park





The Opera House in the National Centre for the Performing Arts

Regulatory Commission, China Securities Regulatory Commission and China Insurance Regulatory Commission, as well as headquarters of some 500 domestic and international financial and business institutions. The area is becoming one of the most important financial hubs in China.

With a superior degree of high-tech industrialisation, Beijing has the most abundant educational resources among Chinese cities and serves as an important research and development base.

The city harbours a cluster of renowned institutions of



higher learning, such as Peking University and Tsinghua University. It also boasts some 200 state-level research and development institutes and major experimental centres, with Chinese Academy of Sciences atop the list. Each year, they turn out a huge number of high-tech products and ideas of national and international standard.

Zhongguancun Science Park (ZSP), dubbed “China’s Silicon Valley”, is located near the northern section of the Fourth Ring Road. Approved by the State Council in 1988 as the first national science park, it is now a state-level high-tech research and development area.

The park, with 39 colleges and universities, as well as 213 research institutes, features high technology, talented personnel and rich information resources. In the past decade, the area has maintained rapid growth, contributing greatly to the country’s science and economy.

Beijing is the converging point of Chinese arts and culture with the outside world, where artists from home and abroad use their talents and inspirations to entertain the city.

Some 100 performing centres, such as the National Centre for the Performing Arts and the Beijing Concert Hall, can be found in the city, and more than 50 art ensembles have registered with the Beijing Trade Association for Performances.

Each year, artists and performers come to Beijing from different countries and regions to stage tens of thousands of exhibitions and performances.

In recent years, public events for cultural exchanges, such as “Year of France”, “Year of Italy” and “Year of Russia”, have not only developed into grand carnivals for art fans, but also enhanced the mutual understanding of peoples from different parts of the world.

Beijing International Drama and Dance Festival and Beijing Music Festival have also been staged annually to enrich citizens’ life and encourage cultural integration.

Beijing has been striving to open its door wider to the outside world through hosting major events of international importance. The 11th Asian Games in 1990, the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and the 21st Universiade in 2001 all proved to be great successes.

These large-scale international events have provided the city with invaluable experience for hosting the Olympic Games in 2008.

Beijing has made painstaking efforts in preparing and staging the Olympic Games, which, in turn, propels the city’s growth.

Between 2001 and 2007, Beijing enjoyed the most rapid and sustained economic growth throughout its history, with an average annual GDP





growth rate of 12.4 per cent. Data released by the Beijing Statistics Bureau showed that in 2007, Beijing's total output value amounted to RMB 900.62 billion, up by 12.3 per cent compared with that of the previous year. A double-digit growth was achieved for nine years in a row.

The three concepts for the Games in 2008, "Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics and People's Olympics", agree perfectly with Beijing's modernisation drive, and since the city won the Olympic bid, it has invested heavily to accelerate its development.

More than 100 construction projects have been carried out, bringing together subway lines, light rail, expressway and airport to establish an efficient traffic system, linking all parts of the city.

Environmental campaigns are transforming Beijing into a garden city with blue sky and clean water.

Efforts in urban digitalisation have helped lay the foundation for "Digital Beijing", featuring e-government, e-commerce, community digital networks, distance learning, etc.

Construction and renovation of public utilities infrastructure have also ensured the city's supply of water, power, and heating.

Thanks to these massive investment initiatives, Beijing has taken on a new look and the lives of citizens have been greatly improved. The city is making great strides as it catches up with the other world-renowned metropolises.

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1. January 1, 2008 – The ballet "Swan Lake" performed by the Russian Samara State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet on its first visit to China

2. January 20, 2006 – The performance "the Renewal of Time" at the China Millennium Monument, Beijing, to unveil the "Year of Italy in China"



Citizens in the basketball court





Beijing 2008



中國國家博物館

北京2008年奥运会
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

距2008年8月8日开幕
From the opening ceremony on August 8th, 2008

倒计时 0000 天
Countdown days

01 时 00 分 00 秒
hours mins secs

同一个世界 同一个梦想

1.3 A Promise to the World



The concepts of “Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics and People’s Olympics” were the commitment of Beijing to the world when it bid for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, and in preparing and staging the Games, the city has made every endeavour to deliver on its promise.

To ensure that all the Olympic events would take place in the best available venues, Beijing and the Co-host Cities – Qingdao, Hong Kong, Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao – completed the construction, renovation and adaptation projects on 37 competition venues, 56 training venues and many other non-competition venues, such as the Olympic Village and the Media Village.

In the entire process of preparing the venues and facilities, the three concepts were explored, enriched and manifested.

High technology concerning environmental protection, energy conservation and new energy were applied in venue preparation.

The Bird’s Nest (National Stadium) was covered on its surface with Tetrafluoroethylene (TFE) panels that helps ensure the lighting inside the stadium. Considerable energy can be saved by this special membrane structure.

A rainwater collection system was also incorporated into the design of Bird’s Nest, and reclaimed water can be used for watering lawns, trees and plants outside the venue, cooling air conditioners, cleaning the toilets and firefighting. 60,000 tons of water can be spared annually with this water saving feature.

The Bird’s Nest was also installed with a geothermal heat pump (GHP) system, consisting mainly of water pipes buried deep beneath the stadium. In winter, water inside the system pulls heat from the soil and transports it into the venue, and in summer, the coldness from the soil can be absorbed for cooling. This renewable energy technology is both environmental friendly and energy efficient.

August 8, 2008 – The countdown board for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in front of the National Museum of China



April 30, 2008 – As part of the 100-day countdown celebration for the Beijing Olympic Games, an art exhibition titled “We are Family – Metropolitan Jungle, Green Olympics” by Wu Xuansan, an artist from Taiwan, opened in Chaoyang Park, Beijing

High-tech features have added lustre to the Beijing Olympic venues. The Water Cube (National Aquatics Centre) is a case in point.

Right after the swimming events of the Games started, Beijing’s Water Cube became “the Magic Box in Madrid”, as an unprecedented number of Olympic and world records were smashed one after another.

The designers, however, did not feel even a little bit surprised. They knew where the magic lied-the “fast pool” of the Water Cube, which was equipped with the latest technical advancements.

The swimmer’s movement through water causes waves which are responsible for much of the drag that impedes his progress.

To buffer the effect, the pool was designed three metres deep, one metre deeper than standard competitive pools. It also has a flat bottom, unlike those conventional pools with a sloped one. The extra depth gives all those waves and splashing a chance to move away from the swimmer, thus helping dissipate the turbulence and reduce resistance.

The pool has 10 lanes instead of eight. The two outside lanes are not used for competitions, so waves churned up during races don’t bounce back into the swimming lanes.

The pool has a slight gradient on top of the four sides, and water is filled to the edge. This special feature, together with the perforated gutters, also helps siphon off the “backwash” waves churned up during races and



discourage turbulence.

A ventilation system is also installed at the lower end of the roof and in the facade of the building shell to bring in fresh air, which is one explanation for the so many outstanding performances seen in the Water Cube during the Olympic Games in 2008.

The Hong Kong Olympic Equestrian Venue (Sha Tin) has a main competition arena with a capacity for 18,000 spectators. Newly constructed stables make up four blocks of accommodations for up to 270 horses.

Penfold Park, located at the centre of the Sha Tin venue and shaded by exuberant trees, has a 1,200-metre

bridle track and an 800-metre cross-country training track. Participants of the events are definitely able to rest comfortably inside the park.

The venue was equipped with cooling stations where large misting fans and ice boxes were installed for horses to cool down.

Considering the fact that sweltering heat in August might become an obstacle for the racehorses from all over the world, organisers of the events also designated the badminton stadium, close to the main competition arena, to be adapted to an air-conditioned indoor venue with stables and a training arena 70 metres in length and 35 metres in width. The



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1. June 15, 2006 – Primary school students at the Olympic Forest Park in Beijing for tree planting
2. March 11, 2007 – Passengers queuing up at a station along Subway Line 1 in Beijing. The 11th of every month of 2007 is designated as the promotion day for queuing up as part of a drive to improve the city's image before the Olympic Games

temperature inside was set to be around 23°C during the Games, so the horses could still train when the weather outside was extremely hot.

These arrangements demonstrated the organisers' concerns for the welfare and protection of the riders and their horses.

Environmental pollution and traffic congestion have long been the concerns of Beijing citizens and the Municipal Government. In the past 10 years, RMB 120 billion has been allocated and more than 200 regulations enforced to relieve the city of these headaches.

By the opening of the Games, Beijing had fulfilled its promise to "green the city" as part of its Olympic bid. The air quality of the city also met relevant standards.

From 2001 to early 2008, the Municipal Government took (in 13 stages) some 200 measures to reduce air pollution and improve air quality. In 2007, 246 "blue-sky days" were recorded as compared to 100 days in 1998.

Data released from the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau showed that by the closing of the Paralympic Games, 197 days were recorded with air quality meeting the standards, up by 23 days when compared to the same period in 2007.

With sustained environmental initiatives, Beijing has become an eco-friendly city: 92 per cent of the city's sewage water is treated; the three-ring water system surrounding the urban area features clear water and green banks; natural gas accounts for an increasing proportion of the city's energy supply.

The Municipal Government also gave priority to public transportation and rail transport to lessen the traffic during the Olympic Games, which led to affordable, convenient and comfortable transportation.

In October 2007, Subway Line 5 was put into operation. In July 2008, Subway Line 10, Airport Express Rail and Subway Line 8 (the Olympic Subway Line) were also open to traffic. During the Olympic Games, the newly operated subway lines and existing ones (Subway Line 1, Line 2, Line 13 and Subway Batong Line) formed a rail transport network with a total mileage reaching 200 kilometres and a daily capacity of four million passengers.

A bus rapid transit (BRT) system with a total mileage of 60 kilometres has also been put into operation.

With the Airport Expressway II open to traffic, it takes only 20 minutes to travel from the urban area to Beijing Capital International Airport Terminal 3 Concourse (T3). Work on the second Beijing-Tianjin intercity highway was also completed one month before the opening of the Olympic Games.

All the initiatives to improve environment and lessen traffic were not only aimed for a successful Olympic Games, but also for transforming Beijing into a congenial workplace and a livable human settlement. What's more, the Municipal Government's efforts drew voluntary participation of the citizens.

In May 2006, some drivers started the campaign of "Driving One Day Less Each Month", which elicited a warm response from residents in Beijing. Then on September 22, 2007, China's first "Car Free Day" was celebrated when many Beijing citizens took public transportation instead of driving their private cars.

Residents of Beijing also took the lead in other "Green Olympics" campaigns such as "Saving a Ton of Water for the Olympic Games" and "Saving Energy through Smart Use of Your Air Conditioner".

The service sectors were ready for the upcoming Olympic Games.

The emergency response plan for the Games began operations by networking 104 designated hospitals in Beijing.

The 5,790 hotels with 665,000 beds, as well as 598 homestays, were to accommodate visitors to the capital during the Games.

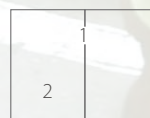
A multi-channel Games-time Tourist Information System was established, which was supported by 56 information booths in the city. A Beijing Tourism Hotline was also put in place.

A comprehensive public security system was tested repeatedly to guarantee smooth operation and quick response to emergencies during the Games.

By the opening of the Olympic Games, 100,000 Games-time volunteers had assumed their posts, and 400,000 city volunteers had staffed the 550 city volunteer service stands. Everyone was ready to serve the Games and visitors from home and abroad.

Citizens of Beijing had exhibited great passion in support of the Olympic Games ever since the city





1. June 29, 2005 – The theme slogan of the Beijing Olympic Games, “One World One Dream”, arranged with flowerpots on the lawn in a residential area of Beijing

2. Beijing Citizens doing fitness exercise



launched its bid. By April 2008, more than one million people had signed up with the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games-time Volunteers Programme. Of course, only a small proportion of the candidates were chosen at last, but the rest were still enthusiastically engaged in foreign language learning.

By early 2008, foreign language training programmes had been offered in 701 local communities, and 433 “Language Corners” had been established. Some 40,000 language-learning activities were organised and language-learning lectures involved participation of more than one million people.

Among the enthusiasts were many senior citizens, who looked forward to helping visitors from overseas through small favours like giving directions.

Staging the Olympic Games also triggered a new

round of city development. In the *Beijing City Master Plan (2004-2020)*, main strategies have been set to create “a polycentric spatial structure with two urban axes and two development corridors.” It also defines the function of the city: the nation’s capital, an international metropolis, a cultural centre, and a livable human habitat.

The Games of the XXIX Olympiad in 2008 has accelerated Beijing’s development and has laid a solid foundation for the city to become an international metropolis. Beijing will cherish this sweet memory and transform it into the impetus for the future.





Chapter 2

Light the Passion Share the Dream

On March 24, 2008, the sacred flame for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad was lit in the Ruins of the Temple of Hera in Olympia, Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Movement.

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay covered the longest distance and widest area, involved the most people, and, for the first time in the Games history, reached the highest peak on earth, Mt. Qomolangma(Everest). For 130 days, the Olympic torch was passed on by 20,000 torchbearers from different countries and regions and covered a distance of 137,000 kilometres, spreading the Olympic spirit all over the world.

Fire not only brings light to mankind, but also progress and civilisation. In ancient Greece, the torch relay used to be a religious ritual held regularly to worship the gods. Later, it evolved gradually into a sport popular among young people. With the revival of the modern Olympic Movement, the passing of the Olympic flame, symbolising peace and friendship, has become an important event in the celebration of the Olympic Games, warming the hearts of people around the world. The modern Olympic torch relay began at the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games and has been held ever since in each of the following Games.



2.1 From Olympia to the Great Wall



On March 24, the bright sunshine over Olympia, Greece auspicated the success of the flame lighting ceremony. At noon local time, the stands were packed with distinguished guests, who were present to witness the sacred moment, including Greek President Karolos Papoulias and Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis.

The ceremony began with the hoisting of the Olympic flag and the national flags of the People's Republic of China and the Hellenic Republic, followed by speeches made by George Aidonis, Mayor of Olympia, Jacques Rogge, President of the IOC, Minos Kyriakou, President of Hellenic Olympic Committee, and Liu Qi, President of BOCOG, who extolled the Olympic spirit and extended best wishes for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

IOC President Rogge highlighted the fact that "the 2008 Olympic Torch Relay should be a journey of harmony, bringing the message of peace to people of different nationalities, cultures and creeds."

BOCOG President Liu Qi said, "Today, the Olympic flame, representing the transcendent human spirit, will be lit once again. Burning in the torch of the Beijing Olympic Games, from Olympia to the Great Wall, the flame will travel over mountains and seas across the globe, our common homeland. Light the passion and share the dream. The Olympic flame will radiate light and happiness, peace and friendship to the people of China and the whole world."

At 11:00 a. m. local time, the High Priestess, portrayed by Greek actress and dancer Maria Nafpliotou, successfully lit the sacred flame for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in a traditional ritual, using only the rays of the sun and a parabolic mirror.

Then, the High Priestess used the flame on the traditional silver torch to light the "Lucky Clouds" torch of the first torchbearer, Alexandros Nikolaidis, the Greek Olympic taekwondo silver medalist in 2004, marking the beginning of the six-day torch relay in the birthplace of the Olympic Movement.

March 30, 2008 – The Beijing Olympic flame handover ceremony was held on the site of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896





Passed from hand to hand of the 629 torchbearers, the Olympic torch travelled over 1,000 kilometres in Greece. On March 30, the last torchbearer, Pigi Divetzi, silver medalist in the triple jump at the Athens Olympic Games, carried the torch into Panathinaiko Stadium, the site of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and the venue for the Beijing Olympic flame handover ceremony. HOC President Minos Kyriakou handed the Olympic flame over to BOCOG President Liu Qi and extended his best wishes for the Beijing Olympic Games. In the speech at the ceremony, he said, "Greece with truthful good-fellowship, hands the flame over to China. The follow-up international relay will spread the message of peace, cooperation and mutual respect."

The plane carrying the Beijing Olympic flame arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport at 9:00 a.m. on March 31. A grand ceremony for the arrival of the Olympic flame and launching of the torch relay for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games was held in Tian'anmen Square at the heart of the host city, where the most important national ceremonies are held.

Chinese state leaders and representatives of the people of all ethnic groups held the ceremony to welcome the arrival of the sacred flame. The ceremony was hosted by Guo Jinlong, Mayor of Beijing. BOCOG President Liu Qi extended on behalf of BOCOG heartfelt thanks to the Greek government, the HOC and



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1. March 24, 2008 – The Beijing Olympic flame lighting ceremony was held in Olympia, Greece. In the picture, the High Priestess, portrayed by Greek actress and dancer Maria Nafpliotou (Left), lights the torch held by Alexandros Nikolaidis, the first torchbearer for the Beijing Olympic Games

2. March 27, 2008 – The Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay: the sacred flame in Giannitsa, Greece

3. March 31, 2008 – Liu Qi, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, Secretary of Beijing Municipal Party Committee and President of BOBOG, was stepping out of the plane, holding the Olympic flame safety lantern





March 31, 2008 – Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chinese President, in the ceremony for the arrival of the Olympic flame and the launching of the torch relay for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

the Greek people for their thoughtful arrangement of the Olympic flame lighting ceremony and tremendous efforts in organising the torch relay event.

At the ceremony, the IOC Coordination Commission Chairman Hein Verbruggen delivered the following message from IOC President Jacques Rogge: "The Olympic flame has arrived in Beijing, announcing that the first-ever Olympic Games in China will soon begin. From today, the torch will carry the flame across the globe, creating anticipation and excitement for the Beijing Games wherever the relay passes. Wherever it passes the Olympic torch relay will cause everyone, whatever their nationality, culture or belief, to pause for a few moments to reflect on its message of peace and the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect."

On behalf of the Chinese government and 1.3 billion Chinese people, Vice President Xi Jinping extended a warm welcome to the arrival of the Olympic flame. He said, "The modern Olympic Games are a grand event of peace and friendship for people around the world. The century-old dream of the Chinese nation to host the Olympic Games has been turned into a reality. To stage a high-level Olympic Games with distinguishing features is the shared aspiration of all Chinese people. The Chinese government and people warmly welcome

the athletes and friends from all countries and regions to Beijing for the grand Olympic event. We will join our friends to vigorously carry forward the Olympic spirit, enhance the mutual understanding and friendship among all peoples of the world and work untiringly for the building of a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity."

The torch relay launching ceremony for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games began at about 11:00 a. m. A torch was lit from the mother flame in the lantern and was given to BOCOG President Liu Qi. Holding the torch, Liu Qi walked toward Chinese President Hu Jintao. President Hu received the torch from Liu Qi and raised it to the thunderous applause from the cheerful spectators. He then walked to the cauldron and lit it with the torch. The Olympic flame, burning cheerfully, provided a counterpoint to the nearby Tian'anmen Rostrum.

Then, President Hu handed over the torch to Liu Xiang, the Olympic hurdling champion, and declared the launching of the torch relay for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Torch Relay Schedule	
March 24	Olympic flame fighting ceremony at Olympia
March 24-29	Torch relay in Greece
March 30	Greece hand-over ceremony
March 31	Arrival in Beijing
April 1	Heading for Almaty
May 4	Torch relay on Chinese mainland
May 8	Olympic flame atop Mt. Qomolangma
August 6	Beijing leg of the torch relay
August 8	Lighting of the cauldron in the National Stadium



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1. April 2, 2008 – Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan who ran as the first torchbearer of the country showed the lucky clouds torch at the commencement ceremony

2. April 5, 2008 – The sacred flame in St. Petersburg, Russia. Galina Zybina, the first torchbearer, bowed at the Victory Square where the Olympic torch relay in St. Petersburg starts, to the commemorative statues of the WWII victims



2.2 A Journey of Harmony around the Globe



Since the Games of the XI Olympiad in 1936, a torch bearing the unique cultural features of the host country has been created for each Olympic Games, leaving an important legacy to the Olympic Movement. The torch for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games is named “Xiangyun” (Lucky Clouds). The shape of the paper scroll and the millennium-old lucky clouds graphic, which are typical Chinese cultural symbols, express the idea of harmony.

The theme of the relay is “Journey of Harmony”. The theme embodies the Olympic ideal of “placing sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity”. “Harmony” boasts strong Chinese characteristics, and expresses the traditional Chinese philosophy in pursuit of a balance between man and nature, among people and between man’s body and soul. It also supports Chinese people’s wish of building a harmonious society of enduring peace and common prosperity. Crossing five continents and 21

cities around the globe, the journey of harmony spread to the whole world not only the Olympic spirit but also the goodwill of the 1.3 billion Chinese people.

On April 2, the first leg of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay outside the Chinese mainland started in Almaty, the largest city in Kazakhstan and “the city of apples” along the ancient Silk Road. Nursultan Nazarbayev, 68-year-old president of Kazakhstan showed the lucky clouds torch to the spectators at the commencement ceremony and ran as the first torchbearer of the country. Eighty torchbearers, including Bakhtiyar Artayev, boxing champion at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, participated in the 20-kilometre torch relay.

On April 3, the Beijing Olympic flame arrived in Europe from Istanbul, a city linking Asia to Europe, and was passed in St. Petersburg, London and Paris. More than 300 torchbearers, including many sports stars, participated in the four legs of the torch relay in Europe.





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1. April 7, 2008 – Performance in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France

2. April 8, 2008 – The sacred flame in San Francisco, U.S.

3. April 11, 2008 – The sacred flame in Buenos Aires, Argentina





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1. April 13, 2008 – The sacred flame in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

2. April 16, 2008 – The sacred flame at the Pakistan Sports Complex

3. April 17, 2008 – The sacred flame in New Delhi, India



The Beijing Olympic flame reached San Francisco in North America on April 9 and arrived in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina in South America on April 11. The Olympic flame lit the passion of the world capital of Tango. Thousands of people gathered along the streets to welcome the sacred flame as it was the first time that the Olympic flame had passed through this South American city. IOC President Jacques Rogge sent a special message to the seventh stop of the relay: "The Olympic flame is always a magical symbol inspiring us to pursue the Olympic values of excellency, friendship and mutual respect. The Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay will be a journey of harmony."

The African leg of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay kicked off in Dar es Salaam, capital of Tanzania on April 13. This was also the first time for the Olympic flame to visit an East African city. Eighty torchbearers carried the Olympic torch along the five-kilometre route, including John Stephen Akhwari, a retired marathon runner who was seriously injured but kept running until he crossed the finish line in the Mexico City 1968 Olympic Games. UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT Anna Tibaijuka, the last torchbearer of the Dar es Salaam leg, lit the cauldron in the Tanzanian National Stadium. She said that at this moment, Tanzania, Africa and the whole world were united with



the touch of the Olympic spirit.

On April 14, the Olympic flame returned to Asia and began to be passed in succession in ten Asian cities, namely, Muscat, capital of Oman, Islamabad, capital of Pakistan, New Delhi, capital of India, Bangkok, capital of Thailand, Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, Nagano in Japan, Seoul, capital of the Republic of Korea, Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. On April 22, the 15th leg of

the global Olympic flame journey was carried out in Canberra, capital of Australia.

People from all the cities warmly welcomed the Olympic flame and gave their best wishes to the Beijing Olympic Games.

Both President Musharraf and Prime Minister Gilani of Pakistan attended the torch relay ceremony. President Musharraf wished the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games a great success. In New Delhi, President of the



Indian Olympic Association Suresh Rao Kalmadi said, “The spirit of the Olympics is universal and should be upheld by the whole world.” In Bangkok, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Kajornprasart offered full support and best wishes to Beijing on behalf of the Thai people. In Pyongyang, Kim Yong Nam, president of the DPRK’s Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly, and Kim Yong Il, premier of the DPRK attended the ceremony, and, together with 400,000 Korean people, wished the Beijing Olympic Games a complete success.

On May 2, the Olympic flame was passed in Hong Kong. Donald Tsang Vam-kuen, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region was present at the welcoming ceremony. 119 torchbearers carried the Olympic flame along the 25-kilometre

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1. April 24, 2008 – The sacred flame in Canberra, Australia
2. April 26, 2008 – A torchbearer with visual impairment in Nagano, Japan



route. The noteworthy features of the Hong Kong leg of torch relay included passing the Shing Mun River in a dragon boat, crossing the Victoria Harbour on a ferry and passing the torch between famous riders on horseback.

On May 3, the Olympic flame reached Macao. The torch relay route in Macao covered a distance of about 27 kilometres, starting from Macao Fisherman's Wharf and passing some of Macao's most famous scenic sites, including Golden Lotus Square, Ruins of St. Paul's, and A-Ma Temple and the Sai Van Bridge. 120 torchbearers had the honour of carrying the Lucky Clouds torch. Edmund Hau-wah, chief executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, said that the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay in Macao was of great significance in that it lit the passion and passed the dream to the people of Macao. He Zhenliang, representative of the IOC President Jacques Rogge, addressed the spectators at the ceremony and extended congratulations on behalf of the IOC for the success of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Torch Relay outside the Chinese mainland.

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1. April 27, 2008 – The sacred flame in Seoul, South Korea

2. April 28, 2008 – 72-year-old Pak Dolk, former national football team player, and the first torchbearer in Pyongyang, DPRK



The Logo of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay owes much of its inspiration to the traditional concept of "fire phoenix" and depicts the image of two runners holding high the Olympic flame. As an ancient Chinese legend has it, the phoenix is the king of all birds and symbolises good fortune, eternity, nobility and happiness. The use of the phoenix image in the torch relay logo conveys the idea that the torch relay will send best wishes from the Beijing Olympic Games to people all over China and the rest of the world.





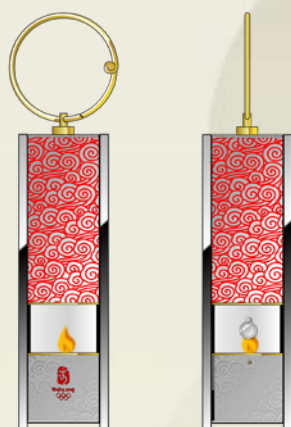




The “Lucky Clouds” Torch

The “Lucky Clouds” torch is 72 centimetres long and 985 grams in weight. A torch can usually keep burning for approximately 15 minutes in conditions where the flame is 25 to 30 centimetres high in a windless environment. The torch has been produced to withstand winds of up to 65 kilometres per hour and to stay alight in rain up to 50 millimetres an hour. The flame can be identified and photographed in sunshine and areas of extreme brightness. The torch is made of aluminum and is recyclable. It has a curved surface, processed with etching and anodizing technologies. The fuel is propane, which is adopted in accordance with environmental guidelines. The dominant colour of the torch is lacquer red, which originated in the Han Dynasty. The bright red lucky clouds pattern on the silver aluminum base of the torch is very eye-catching.

Planning for the design of the torch started as early as August 2005. On December 6, 2005, BOCOG launched a global campaign to solicit design proposals for the torch. On June 8, 2006, “Lucky Clouds” designed by Lenovo Group’s Innovative Design Centre was accepted. The final edition of the torch was officially unveiled on April 26, 2007.



The Beijing Olympic Torch Relay Safety Lantern

The inspiration for the original design of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch safety Relay lantern comes from the traditional lanterns used inside ancient Chinese palaces. The square and round pattern symbolises the Chinese concept of “round heaven and square earth”. The silver lustre of the lantern coupled with crystal-clear glass serves as a foil to the flame and communicates the Olympic flame’s sanctity and purity.



The Beijing Olympic Cauldron

The design of the Beijing Olympic cauldron is also based on the concept of “round heaven and square earth” and is patterned after a typical cauldron from the Chinese Bronze Age. The cauldron shares with the torch and lantern the design element of the “lucky clouds”. The 56 “lucky clouds” hollowed out of the curved plate of the Olympic cauldron symbolise well wishes to the world from China’s 56 ethnic groups. The base of the cauldron has four legs with eight faces, symbolising that the Beijing Olympic Games welcomes friends from all over the world. The Olympic cauldron stands 130 centimetres high, symbolising the 130-day duration of the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay. The cauldron plate is 29 centimetres deep, symbolising the Games of the XXIX Olympiad. The cauldron post is 112 centimetres tall, symbolising the 112 years that have passed between the staging of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and the 2008 Olympic Games.



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1. May 2, 2008 – Kenneth Cheng, a HK equestrian athlete, as a torchbearer in Hong Kong
2. May 3, 2008 – The sacred flame in Macao, China





2.3 Auspicious Clouds Enveloping Mt. Qomolangma



At 9:11 a.m. on May 8, 2008, with extraordinary courage and wisdom, Chinese mountaineers carried the Olympic flame, symbolising peace and friendship, to Mt. Qomolangma, the highest peak on the earth, and successfully lit the torch on “the roof of the world”, fulfilling the promise Beijing made in its Olympic bid. Holding high the “Lucky Clouds” torch atop Mt. Qomolangma with an elevation of 8,844.43 metres above the sea level, the Chinese mountaineers brought the Olympic flame to an unprecedented height.

The heroic scaling of Mt. Qomolangma was broadcast live by 297 TV stations in 113 countries and regions of the world, an unprecedented event in the history of mankind and the Olympic Movement.

Known as “the roof of the world”, Mt. Qomolangma is the main peak of the Himalayan range. Mt. Qomolangma is located at longitude 86.93 degrees east and latitude 27.98 degrees north on the eastern border between China and Nepal, with its northern

slope in Tingri County in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and southern slope in Nepal. Early in 1721, the *Atlas of the Whole Imperial Territory*, also known as the *Kangxi Atlas*, accurately marked the geographic location of Mt. Qomolangma. In 1771, the mountain was named Qomolangma, its present name in Chinese, in the *Qianlong Atlas*.

To ensure the successful lighting of the Beijing Olympic flame on the highest peak on earth, preparatory work began very early by BOCOG and the Mt. Qomolangma Torch Relay Leg Leading Group.

Selection of mountaineers started in 2006. A team of 36 members, including 31 professional mountaineers, was finalised after rounds of strict training and selection. The members were of different ethnic groups, 22 Tibetans and the rest were of Han and Tujia descent. All the members, including three female mountaineers, have climbed Mt. Qomolangma and reached the elevation of 8,800 metres above the sea level.

May 8, 2008 – The ascent team for the Beijing Olympic flame successfully reached the top of Mt. Qomolangma





Of the 36 team members, only five were lucky enough to carry the torch atop Mt. Qomolangma. Others worked as photographers or members of the support team to provide rescue and medical services. It was the concerted efforts of each member of the team that guaranteed the smooth and successful Olympic torch relay on “the roof of the world”.

The torch and lantern are crucial to the accomplishment of the unprecedented undertaking in the most adverse weather conditions on the earth. After three years of research and testing, scientists from the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation handed the specially-made “Lucky Clouds” torch to the mountaineers.

The “Lucky Clouds” torch to be burnt atop Mt. Qomolangma had to be able to burn brightly in the conditions of low temperature, scarce oxygen, low pressure and strong winds. During the research, the scientists tested hundreds of fuels. The samples were not only tested in the laboratory but also in high and frigid areas, such as Mohe in Heilongjiang Province, the northernmost place in China. Some of the testing areas with analogous conditions were even more adverse than the real conditions on top of Mt. Qomolangma. Undergoing continuous and meticulous testing, the torch was able to burn brightly and beautifully in adverse conditions, clearly visible even in the strongest of light atop Mt. Qomolangma.

The special lantern is light, durable, and easy to use. A belt was attached to the rings on the round sealed cover outside the lantern so that the bearer would be able to carry it on his back. The fuel is a special solid carbon rod which looks like a black D battery and feels like wax. It burns slowly without a flame in the lantern. A portion of the



Mt. Qomolangma (Mt. Everest), known as “the roof of the world”

fuel can keep burning for eight hours and can continue to blaze even in the open air at an extremely low temperature.

As one of the most special climates on the earth, the complicated and capricious weather conditions atop Mt. Qomolangma meant that meteorological services were crucial to the success of the torch reaching the summit, especially in forecasting the best time for the ascent. A task team composed of meteorologists and technicians made great contributions to this regard. Preparatory work, such as site work near Mt. Qomolangma, collection of meteorological data and information of the area, had begun three years before. In 2008, China Meteorological Administration moved its most advanced equipment to the base camp. Meteorological data were collected on a daily basis. After a scientific analysis by experts, the latest weather forecast and meteorological information were promptly sent to the headquarters of the Mt. Qomolangma leg of the torch relay.

The original date for the ascent was May 5. However, according to the weather forecast, it was very cloudy. It would be a fine day on May 8 and 9, with a maximum wind speed of 19m/s, which is favourable for mountain climbing. The headquarters accepted the proposal of the meteorological office and finalised the date to be May 8.

To ensure that audiences across the globe could witness the historic moment of the ascent of the Olympic flame to the top of Mt. Qomolangma, Chinese media made meticulous preparations and overcome various difficulties, and set a new record of broadcasting on the highest peak on earth.

CCTV, for the first time, broadcast live with HDTV equipment at an elevation of 8,800 metres above sea level. Xinhua News Agency sent back 27 photos from the summit. Only five minutes after Luobuzhandui kindled the torch, his picture, which was the first one to



The torch relay on Mt. Qomolangma under way



Schedule of the Qomolangma Leg of the Torch Relay on May 8

1:45	The ascent team leaves the base camp.
3:00	The support team leaves the base camp.
5:10	The ascent team reaches the elevation of 8,680 metres.
6:00	The ascent team reaches the elevation of 8,700 metres.
6:52	The ascent team reaches the elevation of 8,800 metres.
7:22	Most of the members of the ascent team reach the elevation of 8,830 metres.
8:30	Some of the members reach the top of Mt. Qomolangma.
9:11	The Olympic torch is successfully lit atop Mt. Qomolangma.
9:12	Torch relay begins with the first torchbearer Jiji.
9:17	Cirenwangmu, the last torchbearer, displays the Lucky Clouds torch



Route map for the torch relay on Mt. Qomolangma

be captured by any media organisation, was released to the whole world. The photographer was Zhaxiciren, a special correspondent with Xinhua News Agency.

To make sure that their equipment worked properly atop Mt. Qomolangma, the two media organisations had formulated a number of technical plans, which were repeatedly tested with the equipment adjusted accordingly, and above all, chose the best mountaineers as their photographers and cameramen. On May 8, eight cameramen from CCTV climbed to the top of Mt. Qomolangma with the torchbearers, and seven others waited in different camps as reserves. All the 15 cameramen came from Tibet Mountaineering School and had been trained by CCTV for nearly 10 years since the establishment of the school in 1998.

The Mt. Qomolangma base camp was set up in Rongbuk Monastery (the highest monastery on the earth with an elevation of 5,200 metres above sea level). The government of the Tibet Autonomous Region provided full support to the ascent of the Olympic flame to the top of Mt. Qomolangma and the media coverage of the undertaking. They expanded

the local solar power station, built a special Internet station, prepared a mobile telecommunications vehicle and many environmentally-friendly prefabs, and provided medical and logistics services to the mountaineering team.

At 1:00 a.m. of May 8, meteorological monitoring showed that the wind was weakening to 2.3 m/s at the altitude of 8,300 metres. At 1:45 a.m., the ascent team left the base camp at 8,300 metres and began the final ascent to the 8,844.43-metre peak. Fully prepared and well-organised, the Chinese mountaineers set out on a unique torch relay route before the eyes of the world.

At 6:00 a.m., the pioneers reached 8,700 metres. At 6:40 a.m., the tune of "Glorious Qomolangma" was sent from the base camp through the interphone, signaling the beginning of the final ascent.

At 9:01 a.m., the mountaineers took out the torch and began preparations for its lighting. Just at this time, Captain Wang Yongfeng made a surprising decision. He took off his oxygen mask. The other four members immediately followed suit and showed their faces to

the whole world.

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay atop of Mt. Qomolangma began at 9:11 a.m. Tibetan mountaineer Luobuzhandui lit the wick and kindled the Olympic torch held by the first torchbearer Jiji, a famous 38-year old Tibetan female mountaineer. The second torchbearer was 45-year-old Wang Yongfeng, captain of the mountaineering team. The third torchbearer was 41-year-old Nimaciren, Principal of Tibet Mountaineering

School. The fourth torchbearer was Huang Chungui, a 22-year-old student of China Agricultural University. At 9:17 a.m., the last torchbearer, 22-year-old Cirenwangmu, another female mountaineer on the team, held high the Olympic torch atop Mt. Qomolangma. Then all the members gathered together to display the Olympic flame to the whole world, the Olympic flag, the flag of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, and the national flag of the People's Republic of China.



May 8, 2008 – The torchbearers atop Mt. Qomolangma with the Olympic flame, the Olympic flag, the national flag of the People's Republic of China and the flag of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games



2.4 Torch Relay on the Chinese Mainland



The Olympic flame officially began its “Journey of Harmony” on the Chinese mainland on May 4, 2008. During the following three months, the flame toured 105 cities and regions along a 97,000-kilometre route in 31 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions on the Chinese mainland.

A picture of the beautiful scenery with diversified flavours of different ethnic groups unfolded with the passing of the Olympic flame on the Chinese mainland. In the areas with compact communities of minority people, such as Guangxi, Yunnan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Qinghai, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, and Jilin, the sacred flame was warmly welcomed by people of all ethnic groups.

The Li girls in Sanya of Hainan Province cheerfully performed the bamboo dance; the Tibetan families near Qinghai Lake presented hadas to the torchbearers; the Miao children in Kaili of Guizhou Province dressed up in their traditional costume, running happily with the torchbearers through the bamboo houses and along the

ridges in the fields.

The flame was also passed in many famous cities with unique historical and cultural heritage, such as Qufu, the hometown of Confucius and Mencius, where children recited classic lines in front of the Confucian Temple to welcome the Beijing Olympic torch.

After May 12, the torch relay became a relay of love and support in the concerted relief efforts after the Wenchuan earthquake in Sichuan Province, and the arrival of the sacred flame in Sichuan warmed the hearts of the people in the quake-stricken areas.

Over ten thousand torchbearers participated in the torch relay on the Chinese mainland. They were selected from all walks of life and from the 56 Chinese ethnic groups, including celebrities, specialists and workers. Among the torchbearers were international friends, overseas Chinese and compatriots in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, who had made great contributions to China’s reform and development. The ages

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- 1. May 4, 2008 – The sacred flame in Sanya, Hainan
- 2. May 12, 2008 – The sacred flame in Longyan, Fujian

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1. May 14, 2008 – The sacred flame in Ruijin, Jiangxi

2. May 22, 2008 – The sacred flame in Ningbo, Zhejiang



of the torchbearers ranged from 14 to 93.

Torch Relay in Southeast China

On May 4, the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay reached Sanya, Hainan Province, the first leg on the Chinese mainland.

There were altogether 208 torchbearers, including 16 international friends from Korea, Japan, Russia, Germany, France, and USA.

The tenth torchbearer Douglas Jackson, an executive at Coca Cola, became the first foreigner to carry the torch on the Chinese mainland.

The 86th torchbearer Carl Hudson, 46 years old, was born in Britain. Now, he is the general manager of a hotel in Sanya. He felt very excited to be an Olympic torchbearer in China. He said, "It has been my lifelong dream of carrying the sacred Olympic flame, and in Sanya, my dream came true. Participating in the torch relay is the best recognition of my work."

After concluding in Sanya, the torch toured 11 other



cities in the region, namely, Wuzhishan, Wanning, Haikou in Hainan Province, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Huizhou, Shantou in Guangdong Province, and Fuzhou, Quanzhou, Xiamen, Longyan in Fujian Province.

In Xiamen, the last torchbearer was Hou Bin, a Paralympic gold medalist in three Games. The Organising Committee had originally expected him to finish his leg in a wheelchair, but he insisted on finishing the 200 metres on the prosthesis he brought for this purpose. Torchbearer Stewart from USA has been working for 18 years in Hong Kong and could speak a little Chinese. He said the reason he had

worked in Hong Kong for so many years was that he loved China. "I love China," said Stewart, "I believe the Beijing Olympic Games will be a big surprise to the whole world."

Torch Relay in Support of Earthquake Relief

On May 12, 2008, a destructive earthquake measuring 8.0 in magnitude struck Wenchuan County in Sichuan Province. The unexpected disaster shocked the whole world. The Chinese government started relief





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1. May 24, 2008 – The sacred flame in Shanghai
2. May 27, 2008 – The sacred flame in Nanjing, Jiangsu
3. May 30, 2008 – The sacred flame in Jixi, Anhui

June 7, 2008 – The sacred flame in Nanning, Guangxi

work immediately after the disaster happened.

IOC President Jacques Rogge expressed his support to China in its relief efforts. He said that the Olympic Movement was with the Chinese people. He believed that with the strong leadership of the Chinese government and the ceaseless endeavours of the Chinese people, China would conquer the disaster and succeed in their relief efforts.

After the earthquake, the meaning of the torch relay was enriched. On May 14, the sacred flame arrived in Ruijin, Jiangxi Province. At the launching ceremony, the spectators observed one-minute silence to the quake victims. Ruijin people from all walks of life donated more than RMB10 million to the quake-stricken areas. From the Ruijin stop on, at every launching ceremony, people donated money to support the relief efforts in Sichuan.

On May 18, the sacred flame arrived in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province. Starting from this stop, the torchbearers used a set of gestures consisting of waving fists, giving applause, and shaking hands, to show their supports to the quake-stricken areas. These gestures known as “united as one” were meant to express the wishes of the Chinese people to “pass love with the Olympic flame”.

On May 18, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China announced that three days from May 19 to 21 would be national mourning days for the earthquake victims. On the same day, BOCOG declared that the torch relay would be suspended during the national mourning days.

On May 22, the torch relay was resumed in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, and the local people expressed their supports











for the Beijing Olympic Games and their condolences for the earthquake victims by wearing green ribbons symbolising peace and rebirth. “Go China!” and “Go Sichuan!” could be heard from the spectators along the route.

On the same day, BOCOG decided to reschedule the Sichuan leg that was supposed to take place from June 15-18 to August 3-5, which meant the Sichuan leg would be the last stop of the torch relay before the Olympic flame was to return to Beijing.

From May 22, the torch relay had covered 27 cities

in nine provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions, namely, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Anhui, Hubei, Hunan, Guangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou and Chongqing.

On June 14, the Olympic flame arrived in Zunyi, Guizhou, known as “the Land of Maotai”, the best liquor in China. The torch relay kicked off at the site of the historically well-known Zunyi Meeting. The first torchbearer was 93-year-old Wang Daojin, a Red Army veteran. Gui Yang, a firefighter who had successfully rescued three survivors in the quake-stricken area, also ran as a torchbearer in this leg.



Torch Relay in the North of China

On June 17, the sacred flame arrived in Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. In the launching ceremony, people from ethnic groups greeted the sacred flame in their traditional dress. 624 torchbearers in Xinjiang came from 13 ethnic groups, among whom 165 were from Uygu, Kazak and Tajik.

Among the torchbearers in Urumqi was Abuduxikeer Mijiti, a coach of the Chinese Boxing Team. Three of his students would take part in the Beijing Olympic Games. Abuduxikeer Mijiti hoped they would make great achievements in the Games and that the torch relay in Xinjiang would spread the Olympic spirit in the area and attract more and more

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1. June 16, 2008 – The sacred flame in Chongqing

2. June 17, 2008 – The sacred flame in Urumqi, Xinjiang





接力
Relay
6.21

点燃激情 传递梦想
Light the Passion Share the Dream
传递圣火 奉献关爱

北京2008奥林匹克火炬接力



Beijing 2008



Coca-Cola

SAMSUNG

lenovo

PRESENTING PARTNERS

点燃激情 传递梦想





young people to participate in sports.

Departing Xinjiang, the “Lucky Clouds” torch was passed in succession in Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai, Shanxi, Ningxia Autonomous Region, Shaanxi, Gansu and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in Northwest China, Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Liaoning in Northeast China, Shandong, Henan, Hebei and Tianjin



in North China.

The flame was warmly welcomed at every stop, and the torch relay turned out to be a big festival for the local people of all ethnic groups.

66 Tibetan torchbearers participated in the Qinghai leg of the relay. The last torchbearer at the Qinghai



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1. July 4, 2008 – The sacred flame in Xi'an, Shaanxi. In the picture is Guo Jie, a 96-year-old torchbearer who participated in the Berlin 1936 Olympic Games

2. July 5, 2008 – The sacred flame under the Mingsha (Echoing-sand) Mountain in Dunhuang, Guansu







July 13, 2008 – The sacred flame in Qiqihar, Heilongjiang

Lake stop was Deicaijia, a 60-year-old Tibetan. He said the beautiful Qinghai Lake was a sacred lake in the hearts of the Tibetan people. China had appropriated RMB 1.5 billion to protect the Qinghai Lake, and the Tibetan people were grateful for this. He also said that when Wenchuan was hit by the earthquake, the local Tibetan people were concerned with the people there. He wished that going through the difficult time at the moment, the people of Sichuan would certainly have a better future.

Touch Relay from Sichuan to Beijing

On August 5, the three-day torch relay in Sichuan ended in Chengdu when the cauldron was lit at the International Convention Centre. During the torch relay in Guang'an, Leshan, Mianyang, Guanghan and Chengdu, the Olympic flame brought warmth and

courage to the quake-stricken areas.

On August 4, the relay and display of the torch in Mianyang, one of the quake-stricken areas, was especially impressive. The site for the display was in Jiuzhou Gymnasium, which had served as a shelter for 45,000 refugees. At the commencement ceremony, the local people performed a collective dance named "Unyielding Backbone", which reenacted the moving scenes of the relief work done by soldiers, police, doctors and ordinary people. Many spectators were moved to tears.

The flame travelled 13.2 kilometres in Chengdu, the last stop in Sichuan. A total of 315 torchbearers demonstrated their resolution and confidence to win the battle against the natural disaster. All along the route, the torchbearers and the spectators shouted together the slogan "Go China! Go Sichuan!" The last



torchbearer of the Chengdu stop was Yu Zhirong, an army officer of Qiang descent and the representative of the heroic soldiers in the relief work in Sichuan. Within less than 40 minutes after the earthquake occurred on May 12, Yu commanded three helicopters on a reconnaissance mission over Mianzhu and Dujiangyan, opening up several air passages to the quake-stricken areas under extremely harsh conditions.

Bidding farewell to Sichuan, the sacred flame is flown to Beijing.

On the morning of August 6, 2008, the first bearer of the Beijing leg, Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut to fly in a manned spaceship, received the Olympic torch at the Meridian Gate of the Forbidden City. During the next three days, the Olympic flame had passed the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, the Grand Canal in Tongzhou, the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian, and

the other landmarks of the city. Torchbearers were selected from all walks of life, including many who had made distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement and the social development of China.

On August 8, the last torchbearer, Xu Zhihong, President of Peking University, wrapped up the Beijing leg of the torch relay. After travelling 137,000 kilometres through more than 120 cities in 130 days, the worldwide Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay ended as a complete success. The world was looking forward to the exciting moment of the lighting of the cauldron in the National Stadium on that evening.





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1. July 16, 2008 – The sacred flame in Yanji, Jilin
2. July 21, 2008 – The sacred flame in Qingdao, Shandong
3. July 31, 2008 – The sacred flame in Tangshan, Hebei
4. August 4, 2008 – The sacred flame in Deyang, Sichuan







Chapter 3

Opening Ceremony: A Gala of the World

At 8:00 p.m., China Standard Time (12:00 p.m. Universal Time) on August 8, 2008, the moment finally arrived with a dazzling light activating the virtual sundial on the roof's edge of the National Stadium – the Bird's Nest – in Beijing, China.

The curtain was pulled, the show was staged, and the breathtaking Opening Ceremony of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad was presented to the world.

Billions of people throughout the world witnessed this grand celebration of humanity which was written into the annals of Olympic history.

The Chinese people prepared a romantic and dream-like feast of visual entertainment sustained with the Olympic spirit and the enigma of China, the Great Oriental nation.

On the night that everyone had anticipated, with more than 10,000 performers in the cast, the four-hour gala became a showcase to the world of the time-honoured Olympic spirit and the age-old Chinese civilisation.

The grand opening started with a welcoming ceremony, moved through performances and the parade of athletes, and culminated in the lighting of cauldron. The artistic performance, "Beautiful Olympics", had two parts. The first part, "Magnificent Civilisation", consisted of five segments: Scroll, Writing, Opera, the Silk Road and Music. The second part, "Glorious Era", was comprised of three segments: Starlight, Nature, and Dream.



The Olympic cauldron being kindled

3.1 Welcoming Ceremony



The Apsara is a typical image in the mural arts of the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, Gansu Province. Originating from Hindu and Buddhist mythology, these divinely beautiful nymphs, without feathered wings, were able to fly by waving their celestial clothes.

Tinted with traditional Chinese artistic flavour, the Apsara, according to Dunhuang mural arts, is actually a product of cultural amalgamation, which fuses the images of supernatural spirits from the Buddhist myths of ancient India, Taoist myths of ancient China, and legends of the Western Regions (a term used in the Han Dynasty for areas including present Xinjiang and parts of Central Asia) and tales of ancient Central China.



Awakened from darkness by a beam of light from the virtual sundial atop the Bird's Nest, a legion of 2,008 drummers, dressed as ancient warriors, started pounding out a hypnotic beat that rumbled like thunder.

The 2,008 fou, a 3,000-year-old percussion instrument in China, formed a matrix that occupied both sides of the arena, symbolising the year of the Olympic Games in Beijing, and the roar of thunder surged from the floor of the stadium.

The fou was originally a large pot-like container used to store wine or other liquid. Back in the State of Qin (a state during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods of China), people, when they became drunk and wanted to sing, would use it to pound out a beat. Gradually, it evolved into a drum-like instrument played by the host at a party.

The drummers at the Opening Ceremony rhythmically beat the fou and chanted with their arms outstretched: "Friends have come

from afar, how happy we are." This famous excerpt from *The Analects* by Confucius was the warmest greeting of the ancient Chinese nation transcending time and space.

In the last 10 seconds, the percussion rhythm became incredibly intense, with Chinese and Arabic numerals successively flashing on the surfaces of the fou. Nine, eight, seven... The entire stadium was infected and the audience started chanting the final countdown to the exciting moment.

Then, twenty-nine giant footprints outlined in fireworks shot up into the sky and gloriously proceeded to pass the landmarks along the city's central axis, including Yongdingmen Gate (Gate of Eternal Stability), Qianmen Gate (Front Gate), Tian'anmen Gate (Gate of Heavenly Peace), the Forbidden City and the Drum Tower.

The footprints represented the 29 Olympiads held in the modern era, with the last one signifying the Games of the XXIX Olympiad awarded to Beijing.



When the last “footprint” arrived at the Bird’s Nest, it exploded and resolved into a meteor shower. The glittering beads scattered on the floor and then gathered to form the halo-like Olympic rings. Graceful Apsaras, the mythical goddesses, floated above the stadium floor and descended slowly amid soft and sweet music to lift up the celestial Olympic rings.

56 young children representing the 56 ethnic groups of China, each donning their ethnic dress, marched in the flag of the People’s Republic of China, as a young girl sang “A Hymn to My Country”. “We cherish peace, and we love our motherland.” These lyrics are the heartfelt wish of the Chinese people for world peace. The flag was handed over to the soldiers of the People’s Liberation Army and then was raised while China’s national anthem was chanted by a 224-member choir. The singers also came from the 56 ethnic groups of the country. With the Olympic rings as its backdrop, the National flag waved majestically in the centre of the stadium, demonstrating the Chinese nation’s sincerity in welcoming the Olympic Movement.



The guards of honour salute to the Olympic flag and the national flag of the People's Republic of China



3.2 Performance



The guqin used in the performance was created more than 1,000 years ago and is nicknamed the “Sounds of Utmost Antiquity”. Guqin is the name for the plucked seven-string instrument of the zither family, and is one of China’s oldest musical instruments. Throughout Chinese history, the guqin, embodying subtlety and gracefulness, has been viewed as a symbol of high culture. The music is sacred and elegant, with an emphasis on silence and timbre, which gives it a meditative quality. The guqin is an instrument that expresses the essence of Chinese music. Its harmonics are profoundly influenced by Confucian orthodoxy of refinement, while its style and artistic conception is heavily tinted with Taoist preference for space and void.



Papermaking is one of the Four Great Inventions of ancient China – the other three being: movable-type printing, the compass and gunpowder. The “Four Treasures of Study” include writing and paint brush, ink stick, paper and ink slab. Mounting and scroll making is a traditional technique of decorating and protecting calligraphy works, paintings and rubbings from stone inscriptions.



As the prelude, a short film was shown depicting the entire process of creating a Chinese scroll painting: papermaking, ink and wash painting, mounting the painting and affixing the scroll. The film ushered in the performances for the night on the “scroll painting”.

Scroll

While the painting on the screen gently unfolded, another giant scroll – 70 metres in length – slowly unfurled in the arena, on which the origin and progress of Chinese civilisation would be outlined.

A blank canvas, 20 metres in length and 11 metres in width, was placed in the centre of the painting. A stream of quintessential cultural icons throughout Chinese history, including rock art, porcelain pottery and bronze vessels, were beamed on the margin.

On a fan-shaped stage not far from the scroll, Chen Leiji,

a teacher from the Affiliated High School of the Chinese Conservatory of Music, started playing the classic piece “High Mountains and Flowing Water” with guqin, an ancient Chinese stringed instrument.

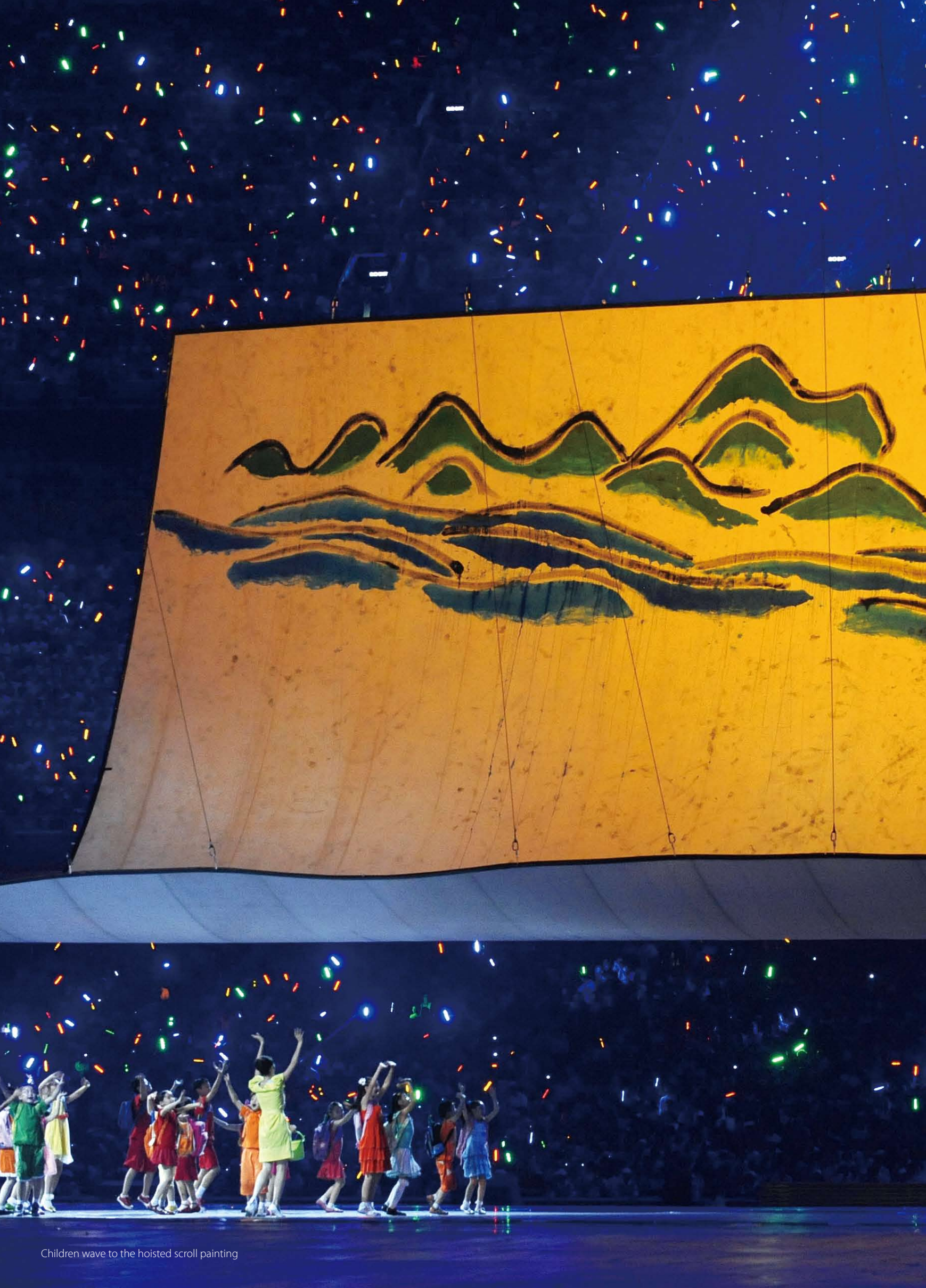
15 black-costumed performers appeared on the canvas, who danced to the melodies while using their bodies as paintbrushes and leaving their trails on the canvas which became “lucky clouds”. Their unique body language was reminiscent of the charm of traditional Chinese ink and wash art.

When the painting was finished and the canvas was lifted up into the sky, the “lucky clouds” dissipated magically, leaving only mountains, rivers and the sun. And on the ground was “Landscape of a Thousand Miles”, a work from Wang Ximeng of the Song Dynasty, which ranks in the “top 10 classic Chinese ink and wash paintings”.



The celestial Olympic rings rise into the sky





Children wave to the hoisted scroll painting





Writing

Chinese characters are among the oldest scripts in the world. They have witnessed the long-standing history of Chinese civilisation.

The “three thousand disciples” of Confucius entered the stadium holding bamboo scrolls, a kind of book in ancient China. They lustily chanted the often quoted lines of *the Analects* by Confucius – “All those within the four seas can be considered brothers.” “With wisdom, there is no delusion; with benevolence, there is no worry; with courage, there is no fear...”

Bamboo scrolls, as one of the earliest forms of the book, were made by carving scripts on pieces of stringed bamboo. They date back to the Warring

States Period about 2,300 years ago.

The Analects is a record of the words and acts of Confucius, the great Chinese thinker, and it is regarded as the representative work of Confucianism.

The big bamboo scroll on the ground was then moved aside, piece by piece. Rising from the centre stage was a Chinese movable type printing press.

897 performers, each hidden inside a cube, began simulating the movable type. The blocks rose and fell, like a gentle breeze stroking the surface of a lake, and then formed the giant Chinese character *he* (和), which means peace and harmony.

The movable type printing performance created the image *he* three times in

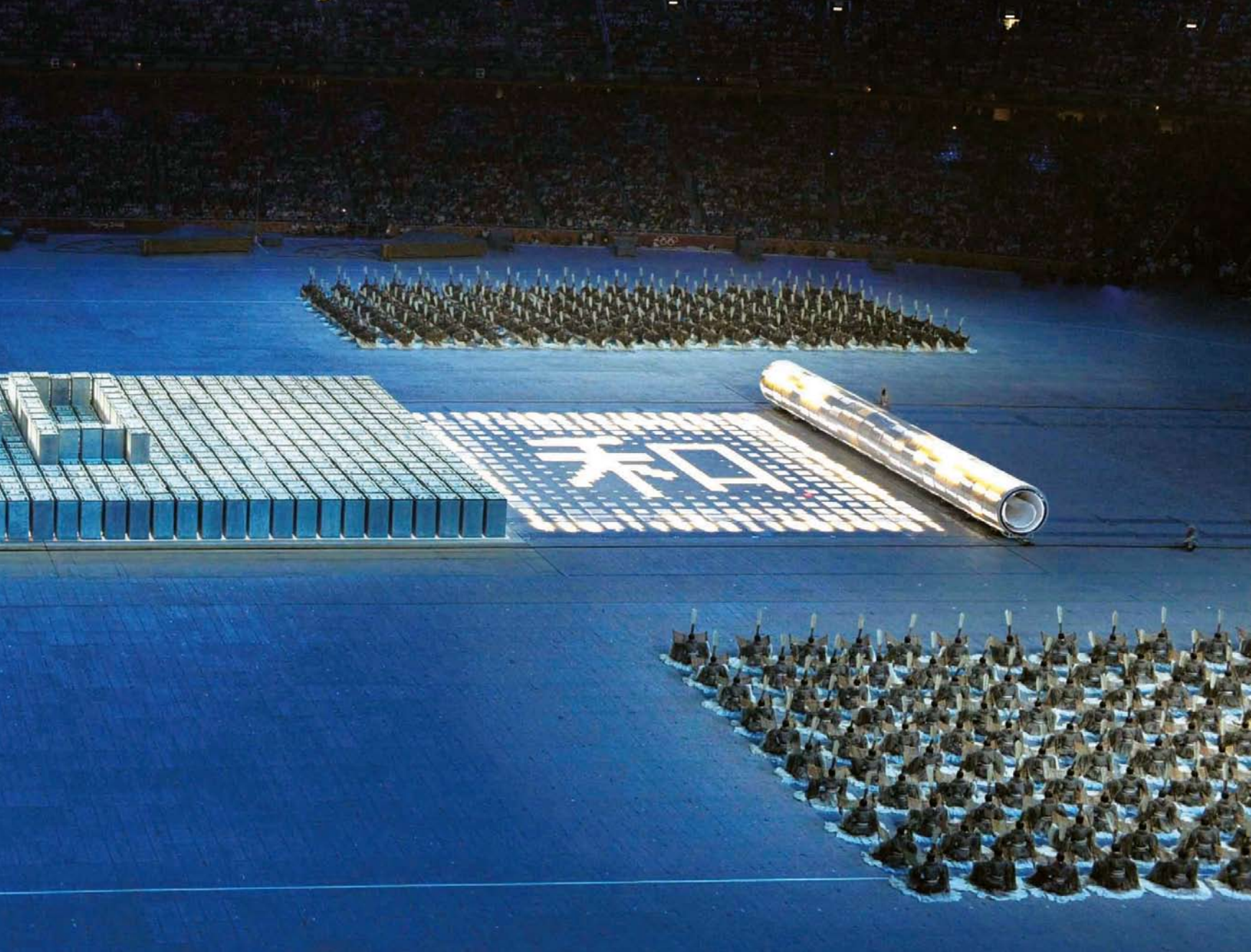
Movable type was invented by Bi Sheng, who lived in the Song Dynasty, during the reign of Emperor Qingli (1041 – 1048 AD)



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1. The movable type printing performance

2. The bamboo-scroll performance





The "Marine Silk Road" performance





The "Silk Road" performance

Kunqu Opera is one of the oldest existing forms of traditional Chinese opera. It is known as "the mother of a hundred operas" because of its influence on other Chinese theatre forms. During a Kunqu performance, profound emotions are usually conveyed through fine gestures and sweet melodies, which are seamlessly integrated to achieve perfect harmony. On May 18, 2001, Kunqu Opera was added to UNESCO's list of Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage.



ancient and modern fonts, which not only showed the evolution of Chinese characters but also represented the Confucian ideal of humanism, that is, "Harmony is precious", the fundamental feature and basic value of Chinese culture.

The ideal of harmony survived the vicissitudes of time and space, and the character *he* (和) on the stage transformed into the Great Wall, before it collapsed to reveal a sea of peach blossoms romantically demonstrating the good wishes of the peace-loving Chinese people.

Bi Sheng's invention, consisting of movable clay letters, typesetting and printing, was a huge reform in the history of printing. It helped encourage the spread of



knowledge and thus contributed greatly to human civilisation. Bi Sheng is therefore revered as the pioneer of the movable type printing industry.

Opera

Amid rhythmical and sonorous percussion, thousands of performers were rolled in on a makeshift stage to display another quintessential gem of Chinese culture – Peking Opera.

The exquisitely made Peking Opera marionettes, controlled by puppeteers, performed dramatic stunts such as sword and flag dances, splits, kicks, and shadow boxing... In order to achieve aesthetic

effects, the marionettes vividly simulated the basic performance elements that are employed in traditional Chinese opera.

Silk Road

The painted canvas that was suspended in the air changed dramatically into the boundless desert, on which was a beautiful Dunhuang dancer. The scroll on the ground became a map of the Silk Road which was ornamented with cultural symbols.

The Silk Road existed more than 2,000 years ago, when Chinese trade caravans set out from Chang'an (Xi'an in Shaanxi Province today) with valuable silk and other



commodities to enter the European Continent via the Hexi Corridor (in northwestern Gansu Province, so called because it lies to the west of the Yellow River). Hence, the Silk Road became an important passage for economic and cultural exchanges between China and the Western nations. And now, the bygone splendour of the Silk Road was being reproduced in the National Stadium.

Then the stadium was dominated by a blue hue, and two phalanxes of blue-robed oarsmen, with huge, long oars in hand, symbolised the ancient voyages along the Maritime Silk Route.

Once reaching Central and Western Asia, Africa and Europe, the Maritime Silk Route was another important passage for trade and cultural exchanges between China and other nations. The maritime trade of porcelain and pottery was given such great significance at the time that the passage was also dubbed the "Maritime Porcelain Route".

The Silk Road and the Maritime Silk Route reaffirmed the age-old Chinese tradition of making friends far and wide



The age-old Chinese ritual music in the performance, "Beautiful Olympics"



and conducting exchanges with the outside world.

The performers in the stadium acted as undaunted seafarers riding the waves of the tumultuous sea, guided by a person on the ship who was holding an ancient compass.

The compass was also one of the Four Great Inventions of ancient China. Brought to Europe in the 1200's, it has since played an even greater role in navigation.

The person on the ship represented Zheng He, the great navigator and diplomat in the Ming Dynasty. About 600 years ago, he led seven shipping fleets with 27,000 people on board on a long voyage starting

The Etiquette and Music Culture is an organic constituent of traditional Chinese education and cultivation. It was centred on moral and social order, the cardinal principle of state governance which has had a far-reaching impact on the evolution of Chinese society.





A huge Dove of Peace formed by illuminated dancers shows up at the centre of the National Stadium





The "Starlight" performance to showcase the boundless universe

from Quanzhou in China's Fujian Province, thus opening up the well-known Maritime Silk Route.

Music

A young man clad in long-sleeved costume stepped onto the centre of the scroll and began chanting in Kunqu Opera the lines of "Spring, River, Flowers, Moon, Night" written by Zhang Ruoxu (660 – 720 AD), a poet of the Tang Dynasty.

"Spring river tidal water,
Running level with the sea,
On the sea the bright moon,
Rising with the tide."

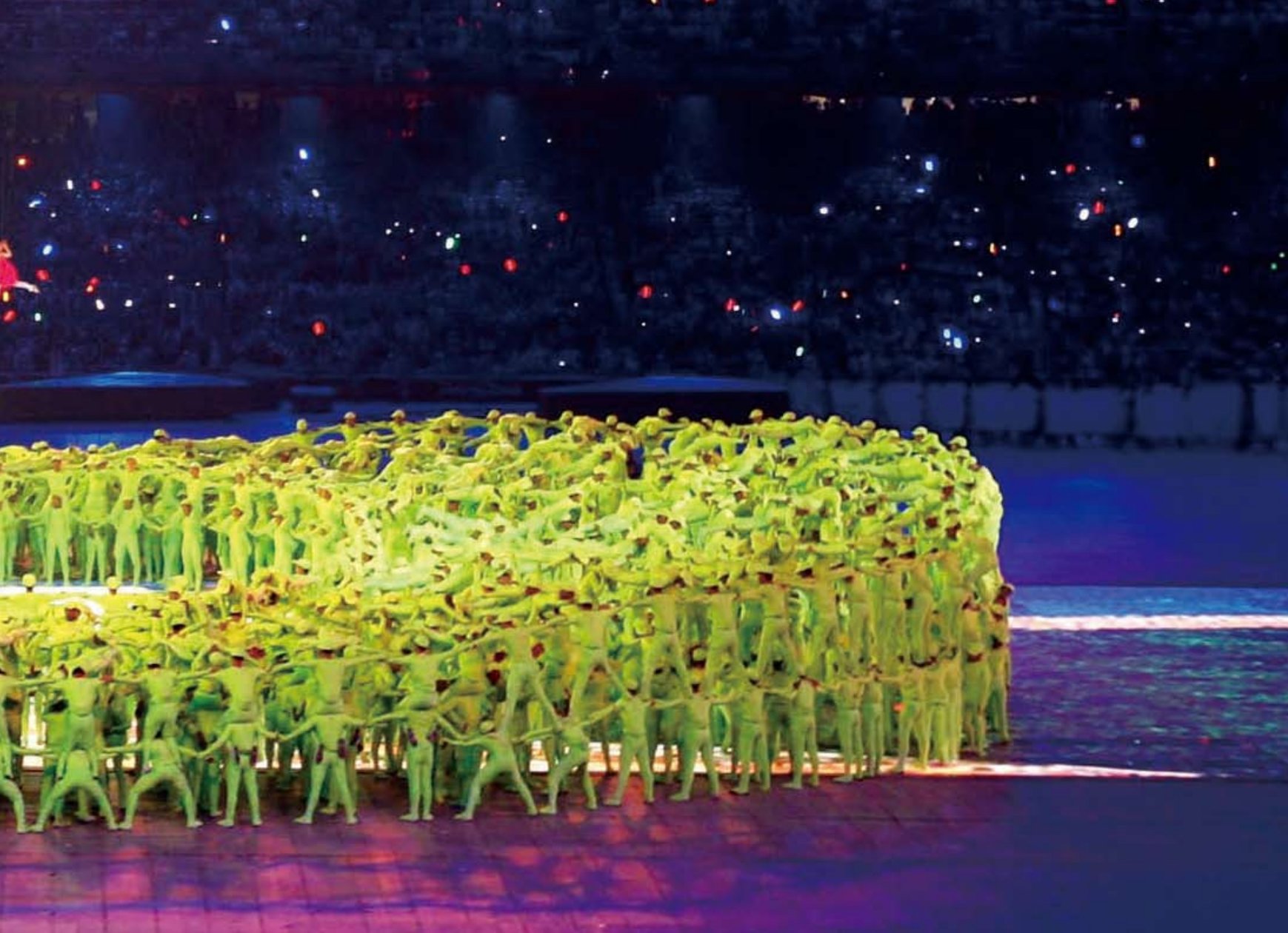
Meanwhile, five of China's best classic paintings emerged on the giant scroll as an evolving backdrop, including "Spring Outing" from the Sui Dynasty, "On the River at Ching Ming Festival" from the Song Dynasty, "Royal Procession" from the Yuan Dynasty,

"Emperor Xianzong Enjoying the Lantern Festival" from the Ming Dynasty, and "Celebration of Emperor Qianlong's 80th Birthday" from the Qing Dynasty. The five paintings epitomised the life of royal families and common people in the golden era of Chinese history.

Then, all of a sudden, the floor lit up, and a thousand dancers in imperial regalia filed into the arena, as if the figures in the paintings had come to life. The majesty of this section of the performance reached its zenith when 32 dragon columns ascended skyward and transformed the stadium into a magnificent palace. On top of each column was a performer playing a musical instrument to extol time-honoured peace and prosperity.

Starlight

Cosmic and translucent, this section provided a portal from the past to the present. In a duet played by 26-year-old pianist Lang Lang and five-year-old girl



The kite is believed to have been invented in China during the Warring States Period by the great philosopher and engineer Mo Di. Upon invention, it was used for military applications such as observing and measuring, delivering information and flying over the battlefield. Later, kites were even fitted with strings and whistles to make musical sounds while flying. By the Song Dynasty, kites had been popularised. With enhanced international exchanges, the kite was also brought to the outside world.



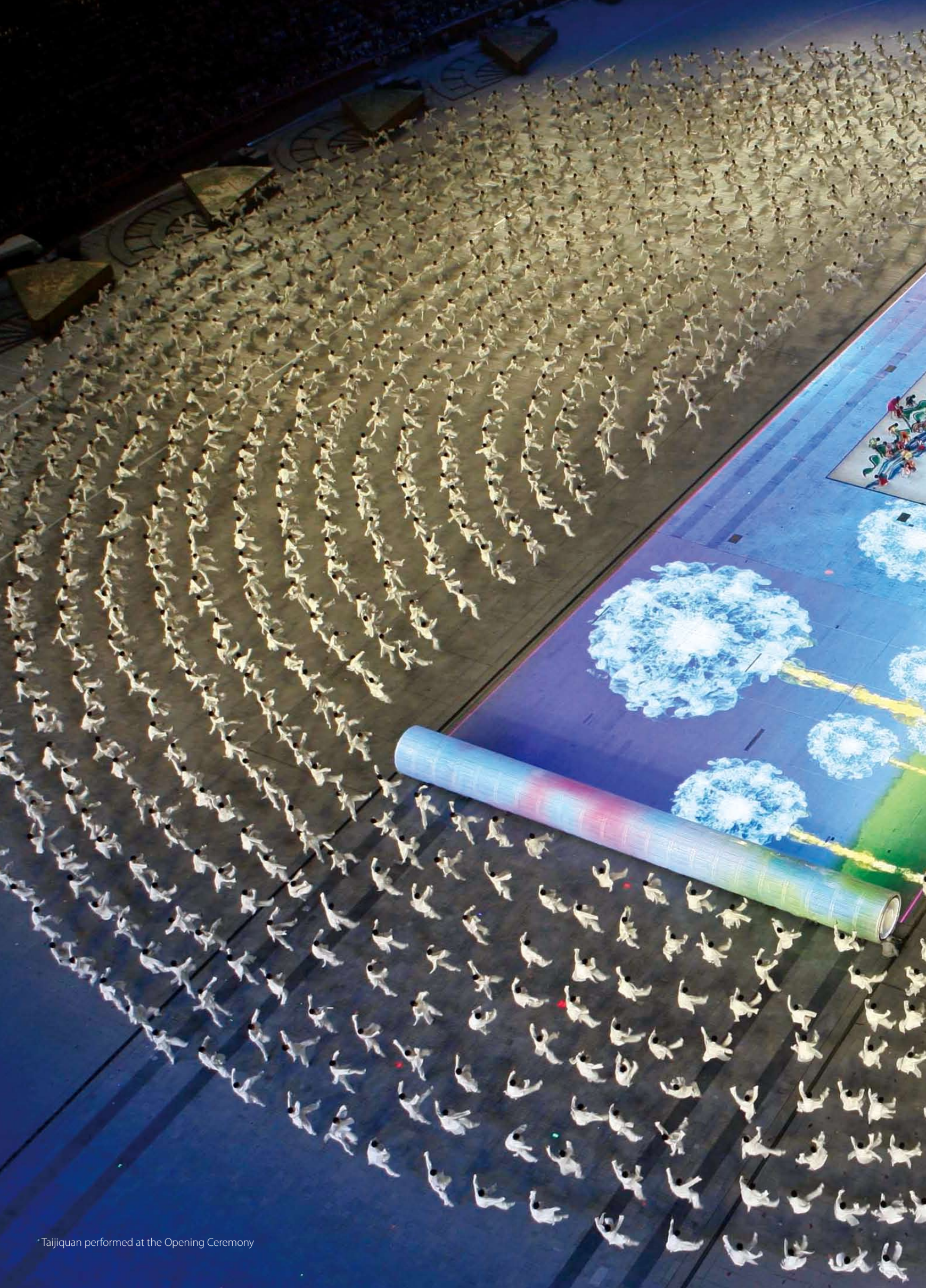
Li Muzi, the black-and-white ink and wash painting of the old days gave way to the bright starlight of the modern era.

One-thousand performers covered in sparking green lights stood on the giant scroll, immediately filling the stadium with vigour and vitality. They weaved intricate patterns such as the beautiful Milky Way and giant nebula, and then arranged themselves in the shape of the Dove of Peace, whose wings were then set into motion.

Eventually, the performers clustered at the centre of the arena and formed a fluorescent Bird's Nest, over which a young girl flew a kite in mid-air, with the aid of suspension wires, and waved to the spectators below.

Nature

Light and shadows on the screen on top of the stadium, as well as the thunderous splashes of torrents, turned the Bird's Nest into a dreamland surrounded by magnificent waterfalls. In the arena, nature's panorama was also



*Taijiquan performed at the Opening Ceremony







projected on the gauze screens held by the performers. The entire stadium teemed with life's exuberance and eternity.

The arena lit up again, and patterns of the Eight Diagrams of Taiji (meaning supreme ultimate) took shape, which symbolise in Chinese culture, the eight natural phenomena – heaven, earth, thunder, wind, water, fire, mountain and lake – that bring about changes in all things on earth. The Diagrams of Taiji convey the key concept of the Chinese philosophy of “unity of man and nature”.

Taijiquan is a form of shadow boxing in Chinese martial arts derived from the concept of Taiji. 2,008 Taijiquan performers formed a circle, which, according to Chinese understanding, is an image associated with the origins of life and the universe. In Chinese philosophy, a circle symbolises the perfect shape of things.

Taijiquan is characterised by the “combination of the dynamic and static and the interdependence of firmness and flexibility”, which is aimed at generating energy within the human body and eventually leads to “unity of man and nature”.

Taijiquan pertains to the unique cultural legacy of China. It is derived from the traditional Chinese philosophical concept of “interaction between *yin* and *yang*” – the opposite forces existing in nature that bring about everything in the universe.

Taijiquan, which may assume various forms, features “interdependence of firmness and flexibility, combination of the dynamic and the static, coupling of movements and inner power, and integration of actions and thoughts”. The Chinese philosophy of health preservation and moral conducts can be traced in its conception, whose ultimate goal is to achieve “unity of man and nature”.



The soft melodies accompanying the performance carried the spectators away, as if they had just awoken on a fresh morning with a magnificent rising sun, sweet dew and chirping birds. The performers' movements and actions were so tranquil and smooth yet so power-laden that they easily reminded the Chinese spectators of fine silk produced by the silkworm and the ceaseless currents of the Yangtze River. The essence of “unity of man and nature” was manifested in the fineness and ceaselessness of the performance.

As the ancient Chinese system of cosmology, Taiji emphasises the intrinsic relation between man and nature – harmony and tranquility, and the Taijiquan performance created this very ambience in the Bird's Nest.

Dream

A gigantic rotating blue sphere slowly rose above the ground, representing the earth. It changed colours and patterns while 58 acrobats tumbled right-side up, sideways or upside down on the nine rings on its surface, seemingly free from gravity.

It took more than a year to design, manufacture and install this gigantic elevating globe. The amazing sphere, 18 metres in diameter and 16 tons in weight, can be lifted to 24 metres above the ground.

On top of the globe, Chinese singer Liu Huan and British singer Sarah Brightman started singing the theme song of the Beijing Olympic Games entitled “You and Me”.

“You and me
From one world
We are family
Travel dream
A thousand miles
Meeting in Beijing”

The song resonated with the theme slogan of the Games – “One World One Dream”. It again expressed Chinese people's heartfelt wishes for peace and friendship.

Sarah Brightman sang the theme song of the Barcelona



Chinese singer Liu Huan and British singer Sarah Brightman sing the theme song of the Beijing Olympic Games entitled "You and Me"

Olympic Games in 1992 with Jose Carreras, and she described “You and Me” as sweet, natural, pure, beautiful and very different from the theme songs of past Olympic Opening Ceremonies.

With the beautiful melodies, 2,008 performers held out parasols with smiling faces of young children on them. The children’s photos were collected by BOCOG throughout the world over a span of one year. At the same time, fireworks also formed 2008 smiling faces in the sky.

The Theme Song for the Beijing Olympic Games:

You and Me

Compositor: Chen Qigang

Chinese lyrics: Chen Qigang

Translation: Chen Qigang, Ma Wen and Chang Shilei

Instrument: Chen Qigang, Chang Shilei and Wang Yizhi

You and me
From one world
We are family
Travel dream
A thousand miles meeting in Beijing
Come together
Put your hand in mine
You and me
From one world
We are family





The "Smiling Faces" performance



3.3 Parade of Athletes



At 21:10 p.m., the Parade of Athletes commenced.

Five orchestras from all over the world performed during the procession. They were Mains of Fintry Pipe Band from Scotland, Mariachi Muler 2000 from the United States, Drum Café from South Africa, Aboriginal musicians and dancers from Australia led by William Barton, and the China Central Broadcast Folk Music Orchestra.

To the tune of the lively music, 204 delegations of the competing National Olympic Committees (NOCs) marched into the stadium in the order dictated by the number of strokes in the first character of their countries' Simplified Chinese names.

By tradition, the athletes of Greece, where the Olympic Movement was born, entered the Bird's Nest first. The delegation, led by Ilias Iliades, the flagbearer and Olympic judo champion at the Games in Athens, immediately received warm applause from the spectators.

Athletes of every delegation became ambassadors for their home countries. With a broad smile on their faces, they waved to the spectators and sang and danced, taking pictures in order to capture every single detail of this memorable occasion.

The 79th delegation arrived to a roaring ovation. It was the Iraqi athletes led by Al-Hilfi Hamzah, the flagbearer who was scheduled to compete in the rowing events. Although the delegation was small, it was greeted by the spectators' thunderous applause. Some of the spectators even rose to their feet to cheer on the Iraqi athletes for their prowess of rejoining the Olympic Family.

Altogether, athletes from 204 countries and regions participated in the Games in Beijing, composing the largest Olympic Family in history thus far. Among them, Montenegro, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu took part in the Games for the first time. Montenegro and Tuvalu were accepted by the IOC at its 119th Session in Guatemala City on July 6, 2007. Montenegro entered 19

The Chinese delegation parades into the arena. Yao Ming as flagbearer walks with Lin Hao, a little boy from the earthquake-stricken area in Sichuan Province



athletes into the Games to compete in events such as water polo, judo and boxing. Marshall Islands, a small republic in the central Pacific, mid-way between Hawaii and Australia, sent five athletes to the Games. The three athletes of Tuvalu qualified for the events of athletics and weightlifting.

At 23:09 p.m., the 1,099-member delegation of the host country, in which 639 were athletes, paraded into the arena. It was the largest delegation to the Olympic Games in Beijing and the largest one in Chinese Olympic history.

Yao Ming, NBA star and China's sports icon, became the flagbearer for the second time, and a secret had been kept until the last minute that a "little flagbearer" would walk by his side.

The young boy waving the national flag and the Olympic flag was Lin Hao, a second-grader from a primary school in Sichuan Province. In the 8.0-magnitude earthquake that devastated Wenchuan

County in Sichuan on May 12, 2008, the boy, with extraordinary bravery, rushed into the ruins and rescued two of his classmates.

The spectators lavished their applause to the little boy, and the deafening chant of "Go China! Go Sichuan!" resounded in the air.

After all the delegations had taken their places, BOCOG President Liu Qi and IOC President Jacques Rogge took centre stage on the protocol platform.

In his speech, Liu Qi extended his warmest welcome to the athletes, coaches and guests from across the globe. He also expressed his sincere thanks to the IOC, the IFs, and all the people who had devoted themselves to the preparation and staging of the Beijing Olympic Games.

Liu said that hosting an Olympic Games was a century-old dream for the Chinese nation, that the Chinese government and people had fulfilled each and every commitment they made to the international



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1. The Brazilian delegation parades into the arena
2. The Uruguayan delegation parades into the arena
3. The Canadian delegation parades into the arena



community, and had worked their hardest in preparing for the Games by firmly adopting the concepts of “Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics and People’s Olympics”. Liu also said that the Olympic spirit would soar to new heights on this vast land.

“A prime mission of the Beijing Olympic Games is to enhance cultural exchanges between peoples of the world,” he said. “We sincerely hope that the time-honoured Chinese civilisation, the vibrant palette of urban and cultural lives in China and the hospitality of the Chinese people, will leave you all with warm and indelible memories of the country.”

IOC President Jacques Rogge also delivered a speech, in which he thanked BOCOG and thousands of gracious volunteers for their tireless work.

“As one world, we grieved with you over the tragic earthquake in Sichuan Province. We were moved by the great courage and solidarity of the Chinese people. As one dream, may these Olympic Games bring you joy, hope and pride,” said Rogge.

He added that the Olympic Games were about much more than performance alone, that they were about a peaceful gathering of 204 NOCs, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, religion or political system.

At 23:36 p.m. China Standard Time, the historical moment came. Chinese President Hu Jintao declared open the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing.

Immediately, thundering cheers rocked the packed stadium, and splendid fireworks lit up the city skyline.

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1. The Spanish delegation parades into the arena
2. The German delegation parades into the arena
3. The Italian delegation parades into the arena





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3.4 The Lighting of the Cauldron



Eight retired athletes – Zheng Fengrong, Mu Xiangxiong, Zhang Xielin, Pan Duo, Li Lingwei, Yang Ling, Xiong Ni and Yang Yang – marched the Olympic flag into the arena and started circling the stadium. Each of these flagbearers had made a great contribution to the development of Chinese athletics.

Zheng Fengrong was the first Chinese woman high jumper to break a world record.

- Mu Xiangxiong broke the world record for men's 100m breaststroke three times during his career.
- Zhang Xielin won various titles in the International Table Tennis Federation World Championship.
- Pan Duo was the first woman to have climbed Qomolangma (Mount Everest).
- Li Lingwei was a 13-time world badminton champion.
- Yang Ling won in 1996 the 10m moving target title in the shooting event at both the World Cup and the Atlanta Olympic Games, where he set a new world record.
- Xiong Ni won gold and silver medals in the four Olympic Games

between 1988 and 2000.

- Yang Yang won the women's 500m short track event at the Olympic Winter Games in 2002 and became China's first-ever Winter Olympic champion.

They then passed on the flag to soldiers of the People's Liberation Army who raised the flag alongside the Chinese national flag.

Meanwhile, a chorus of 80 children donning ethnic dress sang the Olympic Anthem.

Under the Olympic flag, Chinese table tennis champion Zhang Yining and gymnastics referee Huang Liping took the Olympic oath, on behalf of all the athletes and officials respectively.

At 23:54 p.m., the Olympic flame, ignited in ancient Olympia, entered the National Stadium. Spectators waved light torches, which became arrays of twinkling stars, to welcome the sacred flame that had finally completed its journey around the world.

Another seven notable athletes – Xu Haifeng, Gao Min, Li Xiaoshuang, Zhan Xugang, Zhang Jun, Chen

The moment Li Ning ignites the Olympic cauldron after running in the air around the rim of the Bird's Nest











Zhong and Sun Jinfang – became the torchbearers for the final leg of the relay.

- Xu Haifeng won the gold medal of men's 50m pistol at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984, and it was China's first-ever Olympic gold medal.
- Gao Min won the first Olympic gold medal for springboard diving for China, and she had dominated the event throughout her career, which won her the title of "Diving Queen".
- Li Xiaoshuang won the gold medal in the floor exercise event in gymnastics at the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992, and became the first Chinese to claim the individual all-round title at the World Gymnastics

Championships three years later.

- Zhan Xugang won the Olympic gold medal in men's weightlifting at the Atlanta Olympic Games in 1996 and in the middleweight category at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.
- Zhang Jun became China's first Olympic champion for mixed doubles event in badminton at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 and defended his title four years later at the Games in Athens (with his partner Gao Ling).
- Chen Zhong was the champion for the women's 67kg event in taekwondo at both the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney and the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.



The Olympic cauldron is ignited, which is followed by fireworks shot into the night sky

horizontally, along the roof's edge of the Bird's Nest to reach the cauldron. Behind him, a large screen that mimicked an unrolling scroll, showed footage from the Torch Relay of the Journey of Harmony and served as his track.

After running around the rim of the stadium, Li finally reached the cauldron and lit a large fuse that shot up into the Olympic cauldron. It was 0:04 a.m. China Standard Time (12:04 a.m. Universal Time), when the cauldron was ignited.

Immediately, cheers erupted and rocked the entire stadium. Everyone bellowed with triumphant delight for the grand opening of the Olympic Games in Beijing, a gala of peace and friendship.

- Sun Jinfang was the captain of the Chinese women's volleyball team and she helped China win the first world volleyball crown and consecutive World Cup, World Championships and Olympic Games titles in the early 1980's.

Then the moment arrived when Sun Jinfang passed on the sacred flame to Li Ning, the legendary former gymnast who had won six medals (three gold, two silver and one bronze) at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984. And on this night, he once again garnered the world's attention.

Holding the Olympic torch and "taking off" straight up into the air on wires, Li started "running", almost





The fireworks show at the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games



A stylized map of China is rendered in a vibrant red color, set against a background of concentric red arcs. The map is positioned in the upper left quadrant, with its eastern coast facing right. A large, thick red arc sweeps from the top left, around the map, and towards the bottom right, framing the text.

Chapter 4

The Games Unfold

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games took place on August 6 to 24, 2008, playing host to 28 summer sports including 302 events currently on the Olympic programme. Approximately 10,000 athletes from 204 countries and regions participated in the Games. Under the guidance of the Olympic

motto *Citius – Altius – Fortius* (Faster, Higher, Stronger), the athletes gave their best during competition and showed real sportsmanship, which made it an exceptional Games with brilliant athletes, impressive performances and remarkable stories. Every day of the Games unforgettably went down in history.



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1. August 6, 2008 – China confronts Sweden in the preliminary round of women’s football Group E match in Tianjin

2. August 6, 2008 – Norway fights the United States in the preliminary round of women’s football Group G opener in Qinhuangdao

3. August 7, 2008 – Brazil confronts Belgium in men’s football Group C match in Shenyang. Ronaldinho of Brazil (Left) vies with a Belgian player



The women’s soccer tournament kicked off on August 6, as the first Olympic event, starting two days before the official opening of the 2008 Games. The first three matches unfolded simultaneously at 17:00 local time in the venues in three different cities – Tianjin Olympic Centre Stadium, Shenyang Olympic Stadium and Qinhuangdao Olympic Sports Centre Stadium. In Tianjin, the Canadian women’s football team began its Group E Olympic campaign with a 2-1 victory over Argentina. Canada’s Chapman scored the first goal in the 26th minute.

Also in Tianjin, China’s opening Olympic match began at 19:45. This highly expected match finally ended with China’s 2-1 defeat of Sweden.

On August 7, the first eight matches in the Olympic men’s football competition were played in four cities – Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao. Football powerhouses Brazil, Argentina, Italy and the United States were victorious. Many star players made their debut during the Games.



Day 1

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games officially got underway on this day, competitions of 18 sports kicked off with seven gold medals at stake, two golds from shooting and judo each, and one from weightlifting, fencing and road cycling each. Today's focus was largely on the first gold medal of the Games.

The First Gold Medal

With the first gold medal of the Games up for grabs, the first day of competition held much excitement. Two gold medal events took centre stage on Day One: women's 48kg weightlifting at 10:00 a.m. and women's 10m air rifle at 10:30 a.m. Early on that morning, many spectators and media reporters were waiting in the competition venues – Beijing Shooting Range Hall and Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics Gymnasium.

Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) showed up in the shooting range hall, and would present the first gold medal, which was the common practice of the IOC.

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1. August 9, 2008 – Katerina Emmons of the Czech Republic wins the women's 10m air rifle

2. August 9, 2008 – Norling Katrin of Sweden rides her horse Pandora in the dressage section of the equestrian competition





At 10:53 a.m., Katerina Emmons of the Czech Republic won the gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle with 503.5 points, the first gold medal awarded at the Beijing Games. The gold medal was the second Olympic medal for this 25-year-old, following her bronze at Athens 2004 in the same event. After confirming she had won the gold, Emmons ran to her husband Matt Emmons, member of the American shooting team, and kissed him in celebration.

Liubov Galkina of Russia won the silver, Snjezana Pejic of Croatia the bronze.

Equestrian and Sailing

On the same day, the Beijing 2008 Olympic equestrian events and sailing tournament separately opened in Hong Kong and Qingdao.

At 6:30 in the morning, the equestrian events kicked off at Hong Kong's Olympic Equestrian Venue (Sha Tin), which was the earliest event after the conclusion of the Opening Ceremony.

The IOC decided to start in the early morning in order to avoid the midday heat and protect the horses and riders. After two days of rain, fine weather put the IOC's fears of a delay at ease.

On this day, dressage, which is also known as "the ballet of horses" was the first scheduled equestrian event, with 25 contestants from 16 countries and regions. Among them, an Australian couple, Lucinda and Clayton Fredericks, became star riders of the first session of individual dressage. After Saturday's morning session, Lucinda provisionally placed first with 30.4 penalties, followed by her husband Clayton who scored 37. After the competition, the husband told the press that his wife was going to be his biggest competitor. This couple easily helped the Australian team rank first after the dressage phase, followed by the Americans.

In the afternoon, in the coast city of Qingdao, opened the Beijing 2008 Olympic sailing tournament. The first races were of Finn and Yingling classes. At 19:00, on the Octagonal square of the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Centre theme park, the launching ceremony of the 2008 Sailing Regatta excited all the spectators and



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1. August 9, 2008 – Sailing events in Qingdao begins

2. August 9, 2008 – The 25-year-old Chen Xiexia of China scores a clear victory and wins the gold of women's 48kg weightlifting



sailors with a wonderful three-hour-long performance and was concluded with a torch-lighting by Lee Lai-shan, the first-ever Chinese Olympic sailing gold medalist.

The Host Country's First Gold

When Du Li failed in winning the first gold medal for the Chinese delegation, one hour later, Chen Xiexia won the Women's 48kg weightlifting title, the first gold medal for the host country.

The 25-year-old girl, from Guangdong Province, performed perfectly. In the snatch, she ranked first with a score of 95kg, which was 7kg better than Sibel Ozkan of Turkey. Then, she set an Olympic record with a best result of 117kg in the clean and jerk; her combined total of 212kg was also a new Olympic record.

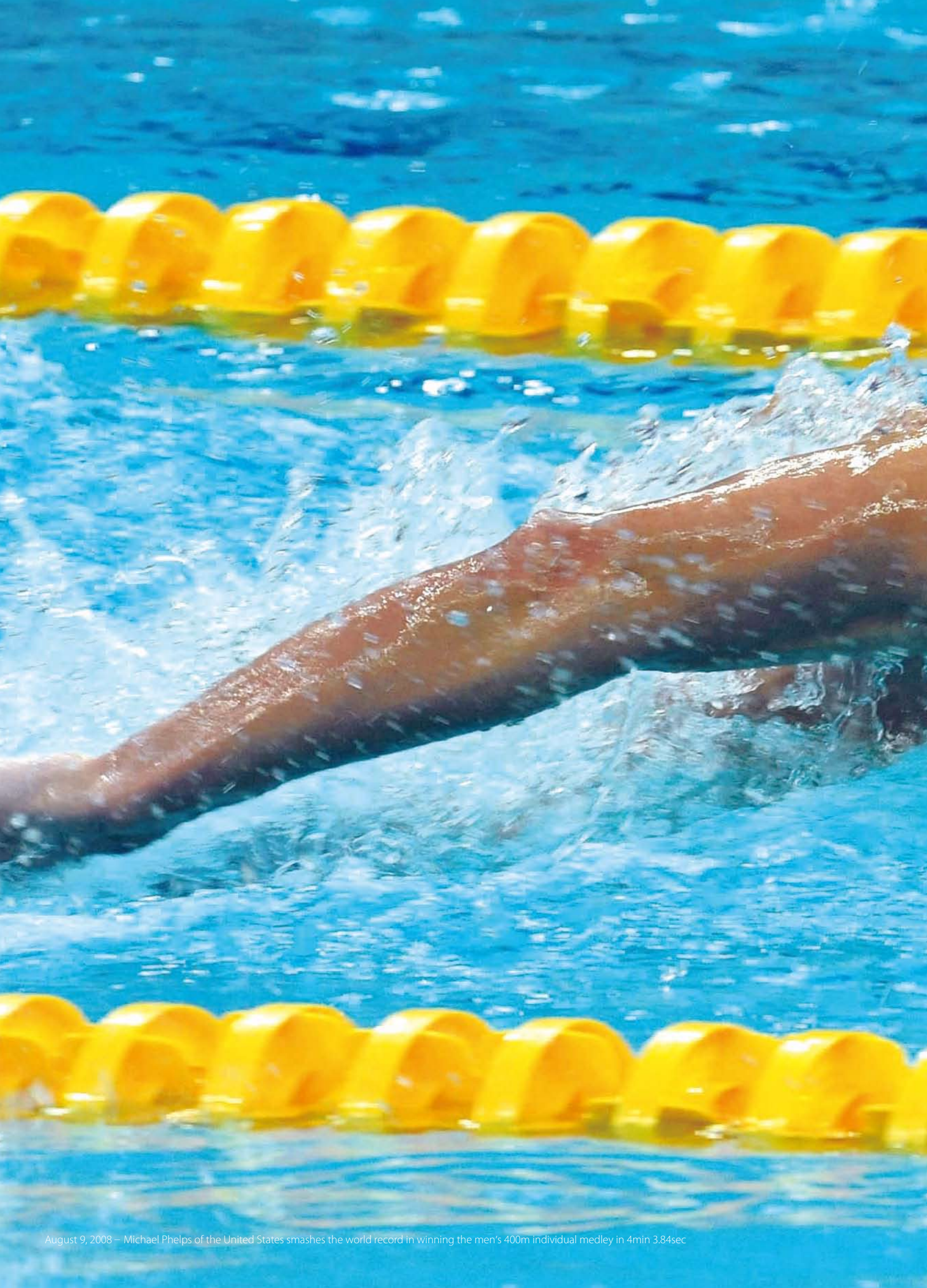
An Alumna Pays a Visit

"I was then in the drugs test centre, when they told me 'Hurry up, Mr. Bush is waiting for you'. This incredible

thing can only happen in Olympics." On that evening, American woman fencer Sada Jacobson lost to her teammate in the women's individual sabre, and won the silver. A visit from former president George H. W. Bush made her even more nervous.

The former president attended the awards ceremony to congratulate the three American girls for sweeping all the medals in the women's individual sabre competition. Mariel Zagunis won the United States' first gold medal of the Beijing Games, Becca Ward took the bronze.

Bush graduated from Yale University, where Sada received a degree in history in 2006. Bush showed special preference to this alumna. Seeing Sada Jacobson shed tears of joy during the awards ceremony, Bush gave his handkerchief to her. After wiping her tears, Sada returned the handkerchief to him, and after allowing an interview, she came back from her emotion, "I should have kept the handkerchief..."



August 9, 2008 — Michael Phelps of the United States smashes the world record in winning the men's 400m individual medley in 4min 3.84sec



Day 2

On the second day of the Beijing Olympic Games, 14 gold medals were to be unveiled, which doubled those of the previous day, and 22 competitions proceeded. As one of the most productive sports, swimming had four finals as the first medals were decided. The two gold winners broke world records in the Water Cube.

In addition, judo, shooting and weightlifting unveiled two gold medals each, and archery, cycling, diving and fencing one each.

First Gold Medal in the Water Cube

Michael Phelps of the U. S., whose goal was eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympic Games, won the men's 400m individual medley in 4min 3.84sec as the first swimming gold medal of the 2008 Olympics. This was the eighth consecutive time Phelps had beaten the

world record of the men's 400m individual medley. The previous record was his 4min 5.25sec in the US Olympic trials in June 2008.

Later, Australian swimmer Stephanie Rice won the women's 400m individual medley with the time of 4min 29.45sec, shaving 1.67 seconds off the previous record.

Great Britain's First Gold Medal

Nicole Cooke, by winning the women's cycling road race in a time of 3hr 32min 24sec, became Great Britain's first gold medalist at the Beijing Olympic Games.

A sudden rainstorm in the afternoon deteriorated road conditions by the Great Wall. Cooke did not win with



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1. August 10, 2008 – Cooke of Great Britain claims the gold medal in the road race of women's cycling
2. August 10, 2008 – Chinese Xian Dongmei wins the gold medal in the women's -52kg judo final. Xian and her coach celebrate
3. August 10, 2008 – China confronts the US in men's basketball preliminary match held in the Olympic Basketball Area



ease. After completing half of the competition route, she only ranked 46th. However, with the help of her teammates, she eventually leapfrogged her rivals into a leading position.

This gold medal was attributed to teamwork, so it is no wonder that Cooke immediately hugged her teammates at the conclusion of the race. In the interview afterwards she thanked her teammates and attributed her success to team cooperation.

USA – China Basketball Game

Accompanied by Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, US President George W. Bush, his wife, his father – former US President George H. W. Bush and former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger came for the basketball game between USA and China in the Beijing Olympic Basketball Arena at 10:15 p.m.

This game was the debut of both the Chinese basketball team and the US Dream Team at the Beijing Olympic Games, and attracted hundreds of media correspondents and countless basketball fans. More than 500 journalists were waiting in Wukesong Sports Centre three hours before the game began, and it was reported that nearly one billion people watched the television relay of this game.

China lost the game 70 : 101, but the 31 points separating them was the smallest margin of the two teams' clashes. The Chinese basketball team led by

Yao Ming showed great courage and determination, making it difficult for their American rival in the first half.

"This match is one of the most precious treasures in my life," Yao said after the match, "We lost, but we did a great job, and I feel proud of my teammates."

A Mother's Gold Medal

On this night, 33-year-old Xian Dongmei of China defeated An Kum-ae of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the women's 52kg judo final at the Beijing Olympic Games to become the first Chinese judoka to win gold medals in two consecutive Olympic Games and also the first-ever mother Olympic champion in China.

At the beginning of the final, An Kum-ae attacked Xian vigorously. Avoiding the attacks, Xian waited for her opportunity. 1 min 50sec after the event began, she gained a koka because of An Kum-ae's passiveness, and at 2min 40sec she gained a second one through attacking. With 6sec left, An Kum-ae got a chance and a koka, but eventually lost.

Xian Dongmei returned to her training four months after her daughter's birth, as a mother competitor, she faced greater adversity than other competitors. After the medal presentation, she said she missed her daughter.



Day 3

Olympic athletes would compete for 13 gold medals in 20 disciplines Monday, the third day of the Beijing Olympic Games, of which four gold medals were up for grabs in the Water Cube, two respectively for judo, shooting, and weightlifting, and one for archery, diving, and fencing.

Five world records were broken in the Water Cube on this day, which stunned the whole world. And the tightest race was the final of the men's 4×100 freestyle relay between France and the United States. On the last leg of the race, the French swimmer still had a body-length lead on his American counterpart, but in the final 20 metres 33-year-old Jason Lezak, made up the distance and ended up out-touching the Frenchman by 0.08 seconds.

Lezak also helped Phelps reap another gold medal.

Pride of India

Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra, scoring a total of 700.5 points to capture the gold medal for the men's 10m air rifle, was the brightest star in the Beijing Shooting Range Hall. He beat many super shooters like China's defending champion Zhu Qinan in the final and became the first-ever individual Olympic gold medalist for his country.

Before Bindra's accomplishment, the Indian men's field hockey had bagged eight Olympic golds, but the country had never won a single individual gold medal, making Bindra's feat much more historic.

New Delhi's TV broadcast text messages from its audience the same day, two of which read: "India has been expecting this for so long" and "Bindra is our pride."

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1. August 11, 2008 – Elnur Mammadli of Azerbaijan (Left) celebrates winning men's 73kg judo gold

2. August 11, 2008 – India's Abhinav Bindra clinches the country's first-ever individual gold medal at the Olympic Games, winning the 10m air rifle event

Luan Jujie Greets China

At the Games of the XXIII Olympiad in 1984, 26-year-old Luan Jujie picked up China's first (women's) fencing gold in Los Angeles. 24 years later, Luan seized the opportunity to participate in the Beijing Olympic Games. But this time, Luan was representing Canada.

Luan made her debut at the Beijing Olympic Games on this day, greeted by warm applause from the audience. In the women's individual foil 1/32 final, Luan overwhelmed Tunisia's Boubakri Ines 13-9, and received a standing ovation. At this time, from her backpack, she took out a red banner with three golden characters "祖国好" (Hello, my home country) to show her affection for her motherland.

At age 50, and mother of three children, Luan decided to come back and take part in the Games held in her motherland. In order to achieve this she overcame many obstacles such as sickness and injury. Training her way to becoming physically fit, she competed in every point race before qualifying for the Olympic Games. "It is the process of participation that matters, and for me, it is not important to win or lose. The chance to compete in my own country is precious", she said.

Debut of Zambian Badminton Player

Mambwe Eli, a badminton player from Zambia, lost to a French player 0-2. This was the first time for him to take part in the Olympic Games and also his first match. Everyone in the audience clapped for him

despite of his loss, because he made history in that he was the first shuttler to ever compete for Zambia.

"I am proud of this, and I have tried my best. The applause of the spectators encouraged me a lot," 26-year-old Eli said.

A Zambian TV station transmitted this match, and Eli's family watched his performance at the Beijing Olympic Games. "I don't want to let my mother down," Elli said.

Eight African teams took part in the badminton competitions at this Games, which is the most ever since badminton was officially listed as an Olympic event in 1992. Among the eight countries, Zambia and Uganda took part in the event for the first time.

A Quick Victory

The judo events continued in the Beijing Science and Technology University Gymnasium (USTB Gymnasium). In the men's -73kg gold medal contest, the match was over almost before the spectators had noticed it had begun. Azerbaijan athlete Mammadli Elnur beat Korean Wang Ki-chun, earning the gold medal and avenging a defeat to Wang at the World Judo Championships in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2007.

Displaying expert skills, Elnur defeated Wang in just 13 seconds. This is the charm of judo – all is decided in an instant. Lying on the judo mat, Wang Ki-chun seemed unwilling to accept the quick result.



Day 4

Nineteen golds were available among 24 major events Tuesday, the fourth day of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Swimming was still most noteworthy with four golds awarded; two for wrestling, weightlifting, shooting, judo, equestrian, and canoe/kayak slalom each; one each for diving, fencing, and artistic gymnastics.

Russia's First Gold Medal

Russia's Nazyr Mankiev, the bronze medalist at the 2007 World Championships, beat Rovshan Bayramov of Azerbaijan 2-0 to win the men's Greco-Roman wrestling 55kg final at the China Agriculture University Gymnasium on this day, the first day of the wrestling competition, taking the first gold medal for the Russian

delegation at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

After the match, Mankiev said excitedly, "It feels marvelous to win the gold medal, and I was not aware that we were competing for the first gold medal for our delegation. It is a little depressing that it took us this long to win our first gold medal, but I firmly believe that the Russian delegation will win more."

Deputy Chief Has No Regrets

"I have no regrets, for at least I have competed," said United Arab Emirates' Sheikh Ahmed Al-Maktoum after losing in the men's double trap qualification at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. Al-Maktoum is also one of the AE's deputy chiefs, and he collected the



first-ever gold medal for his country at the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. On this day, he finished seventh with the total score of 136, losing the chance to enter the final.

Sheikh Ahmed Al-Maktoum vied for the 2008 Olympic Games with the purpose of improving the popularity of the sport of shooting in the United Arab Emirates. Although he did not do as well as he expected, he was still contented, saying, "I am not at all regretful, because my goal was simply to enjoy competing in the Olympics. And I have fully enjoyed it."

Korea's Praise for Its Loser

The men's 69kg weightlifting final was held at the Beijing University of Aeronautics & Astronautics Gymnasium on Day Four of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, August 12, 2008. South Korea's Lee Bae-young, the silver medalist at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, ranked first in the snatch in this event, lifting a total of 155 kilos, improving upon Korea's national record. However, on the first attempt in the clean and jerk, Lee suffered leg cramps. He did not give up during the next two attempts until falling onto the platform.

The spectators were moved by Lee's spirit and greeted him with loud applause. Lee rose from the platform at once and waved with thanks to the spectators.

According to South Korea's *The Chosun Ilbo*, Korean netizens extended their sincere respect, and praised him as "a hero of Korea", who demonstrated the

spirit of the Olympics by making every effort to fight without quitting.

Germany's Four Golds in One Day

The German team collected their first four golds on the fourth day of the 2008 Olympics. Alexander Grimm won the Kayak K1 men's gold medal, and almost at the same time, another German Ole Bischof beat Kim Jae-bum of the Republic of Korea, taking the men's 81kg judo Olympic gold. Bischof was considered a dark horse, for the best result he had ever recorded before this Olympic Games was 23rd place in the World Championships.

The other two golds were collected on the equestrian field in Hong Kong: Germany beat both Australia and Great Britain to win the equestrian team event with 166.10 penalty points. Later, Hinrich Romeike won the individual jumping event, adding a fourth gold for the German delegation.

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1. August 12, 2008 – Islam-Beka Albiev (Second from Left) of Russia dominates Vitaliy Rahimov of Azerbaijan in the final of the men's Greco-Roman 60kg wrestling and wins the gold

2. August 12, 2008 – In the men's 69kg weightlifting, Lee Bae-young of South Korea remains in the game after being injured in the attempt. Audience cheers for him

Day 5

There were 27 events held on this day and Olympic champions were crowned in 17 of them. A cascade of swimming records were broken in the Beijing Olympic pool; another four gold medals were up for grabs, two respectively for wrestling, weightlifting, judo, fencing and road cycling, and one respectively for diving and gymnastics. Half of the swimming events had been completed thus far, with a total of 32 events generating half of their respective Games gold medals. What was most captivating were the new records that continued to be set in the Water Cube and Michael Phelps' steady march toward eight gold medals.

The Olympic Dream and a Battle with Cancer

As a member of the star-studded American swimming team, his feat is neither as splendid as Phelps nor as famous. But by standing on the competition ground, he has already won the respect of the world. He is the American competitor Eric Shanteau. He did not qualify for the finals in the 200m breaststroke and thus his Olympic journey was over.

"Participating in the Olympic Games, I have already gained everything. As for swimming, I achieved my goal for it is my personal best," he said when he failed in the semifinal.

Two months prior to the Beijing Olympic Games, Eric Shanteau was diagnosed with testicular cancer, but he chose to compete in the Olympic Games. "These two months, I kept swimming. It was my decision and with no pressure from other people." When talking about his future battle with cancer, he was full of optimism,

saying, "Now I've got a much bigger battle and I know I'm going to win that one; my Olympic competition is over, and now I can devote myself to this battle. I'm going to beat it. I'm going to attack it the same way I did swimming."

Natalia Partyka of Poland

Natalia Partyka was born with a right arm that ends just below the elbow. She has performed tasks with one arm that fully capable people could not perform with two arms. She was born to be a table tennis champion and was given the nickname "Venus".

This day was her 2008 Olympic debut; She competed against Hong Kong in the women's team opening-round. Though she regretfully lost the game, she gained all the spectators' respect and applause.

Beginning to play table tennis at age seven, Partyka represented her country in the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games at the age of 11, returning to Poland with the gold medal. In February 2008, at the World Championships in Guangzhou, she defeated opponent Li Jiawei of Singapore, who ranked sixth in the world and thus proving her ability. Now, she ranks third in Poland and 147th in the world.

Though she did not qualify for the women's single competition for the Beijing Olympic Games, she had the chance to compete in the women's team competition. She was also to compete in the Paralympic Games in Beijing to defend her title.



August 13, 2008 – Poland's Natalia Partyka, plays against veteran Tie Yana of Hong Kong, China in the women's team group match

Michael Phelps' New Records

On entering the Beijing Olympic Games, Michael Phelps was best known for achieving the feat of winning the most gold medals in a single Olympic Games. By winning two more gold medals on this day, Phelps' Olympic gold medal count was now 11.

His golds came in the men's 200m butterfly and 4x200m freestyle relay. Up to this point, he had participated in five events, winning five gold medals as well as breaking five records.

African Judo – One Step Closer

This day was the fifth day of judo competition of the Beijing Olympic Games. Japan's top judoka Ueno

Masae claimed her second consecutive Olympic

gold in the women's –70kg weight class, and won Japan's third judo gold medal of these Olympics; Irakli Tsirekidze won gold in his Olympic debut for Georgia in the men's –90kg.

Most notably, African judo competitor Amar Benikhlef from Algeria captured the silver medal in the men's –90kg final, which was the best result ever for any African judo athlete. Egypt's Hesham Mesbah took the bronze medal.

Algerian judoka Soraya Haddad won the first Olympic medal for Algeria and Africa on Sunday, August 10, taking bronze in the –52kg category.



Day 6

Twenty-one sports took place on this day with a total of 15 gold medals handed out: four would be awarded in swimming, three contested in wrestling, shooting and Judo giving out two each and one each in archery, equestrian, fencing, and gymnastics.

Due to bad weather, the sailing event to be held in Qingdao was postponed and some outdoor events in Beijing were also postponed, including: rowing, canoe/kayak, baseball, softball, and tennis.

China's Zhang Takes Gold to Break South Korea's 24-Year Reign

China's Zhang Juanjuan dethroned defending Olympic champion Park Sung-hyun of South Korea for the women's individual archery gold, the first awarded to someone other than a South Korean since 1980.

In all, South Korea has won 15 out of a possible 21 medals in this event dating back to the Los Angeles 1984 Games. Had South Korea been victorious on this day, they would have set the longest running NOC winning streak in an individual event. In this year's draw, South Korea had the top three seeds and had already claimed the team title in Beijing.

To win the Olympic title, NO. 27 seed Zhang had to beat all of the top seeded South Koreans, including Park Sung-hyun, the individual gold medalist at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

In the quarterfinal, Zhang beat Joo Hyury-jung 106-101. In the semifinal, Zhang took out No.1 ranked archer in the world, Yun Ok-hee, 115-109. Zhang's score equaled the Olympic record Park set earlier in the day.

In the final, Zhang trailed 109-101 before scoring nine of 10 on her final shot and defeated Park by one point, 110-109.

Mongolia's First Gold Medal

Mongolia earned its first Olympic gold in judo, when Tuvshinbayar Naidan defeated Kazakhstan's Askhat Zhitkeyev in the men's –100kg category.

Naidan, who upset Japan's 2004 Olympic champion Keiji Suzuki in his opening bout, scored a waza-ari late in the bout and then added on two yukos to seal the victory.

Having made it to the Olympic medals podium fifteen times in the last four decades, Mongolia had never won a single gold medal. This time Mongolia had great expectations and strong enthusiasm for the Games. They sent a historic delegation to the Beijing Olympic Games, consisting of 29 athletes and 33 officials. In addition, its media team was also unprecedented. Mongolian athletes had many advantages in the Beijing Olympic Games in terms of geography, climate conditions and eating habits. In Mongolia, from the national leaders to the common people, the whole nation had high hopes that their athletes would excel in Beijing, breaking their zero Olympic gold medal count. Therefore, their slogan for the Beijing Olympic Games was "Go for Olympic Gold Medals!"

Naidan lived up to their expectation.

Breaststroke King

Japan's Kosuke Kitajima claimed his second gold medal of the Beijing Olympic Games with a victory in the 200m breaststroke final.

The 25-year-old Kitajima won in an Olympic record time of 2min 7.64sec to add the 200m to the 100m breaststroke title he won on the previous Monday. Kitajima repeated the feat he achieved in Athens four years ago when he won the 100m and 200m

breaststroke titles, a rare Olympic achievement and the first time it has been done in the breaststroke.

In the men's 100m breaststroke, Kitajima smashed the world record as he stormed to the Olympic gold. "The gold medal in the 100m gave me more confidence and made me relax; today my goal was to break the world record in 200m, but I didn't, which was unfortunate", he said after the match.

Federer Ousted in Olympic Tennis

Swiss world No.1 Roger Federer lost to eighth seed American James Blake in the men's singles quarterfinals of the Olympic tennis event Thursday.

In a match delayed by rain for three hours, Federer played below standard, slumping at 6-4, 7-6(2) in just one hour and 30 minutes. Before this match, he had defeated Blake in all eight of their previous encounters.

Federer had said earlier that week that winning an Olympic gold medal was the focus of his entire season. He had yet to add a grand slam title in 2008 to his 12 career victories, and the loss to Blake further let Chinese fans down.

One piece of good news is that Federer was still alive in the men's doubles tournament.

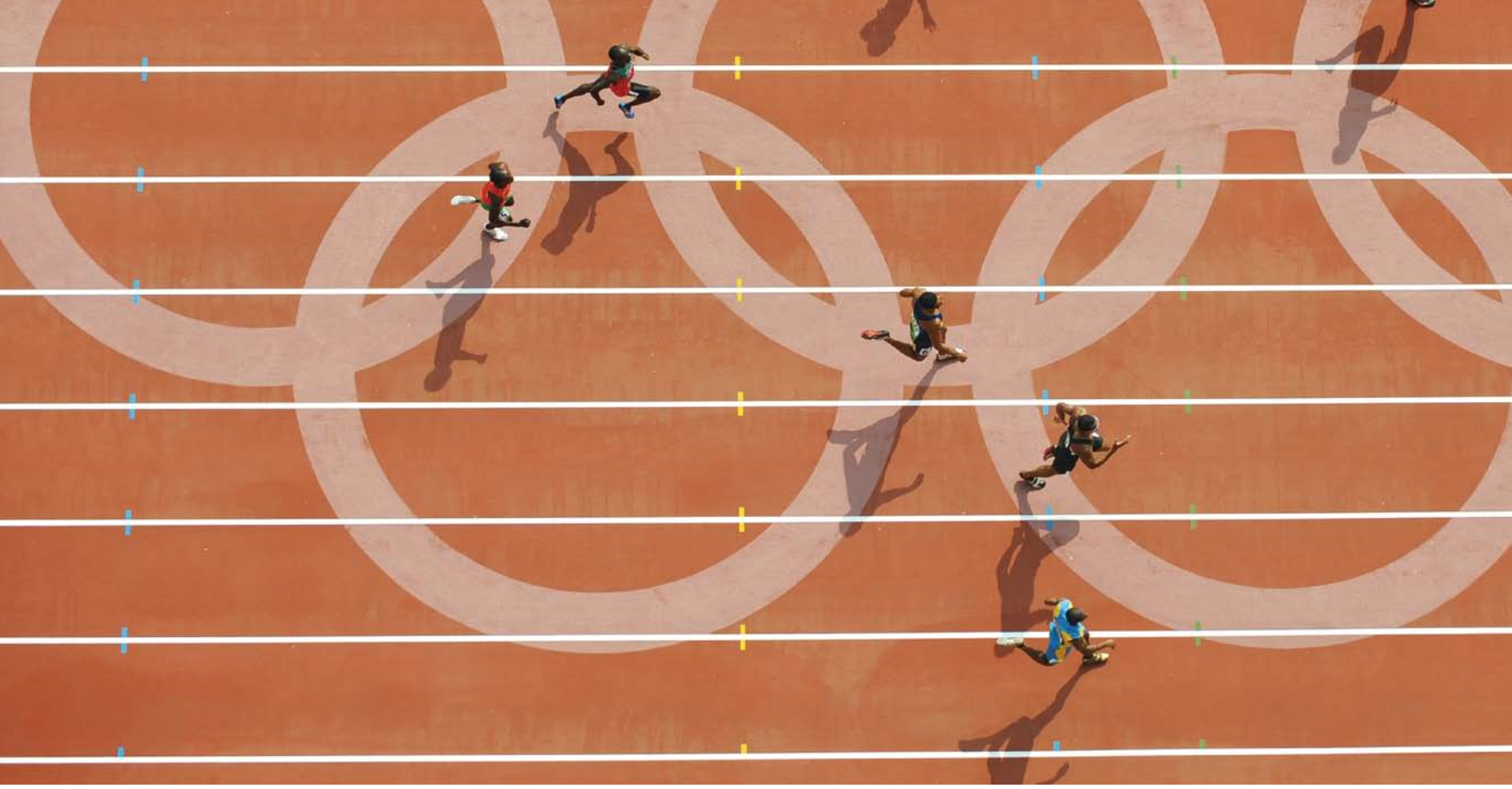
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1. August 13, 2008 – Zhang Juanjuan of China celebrates after claiming the gold medal in women's individual archery competition

2. August 14, 2008 – Kosuke Kitajima of Japan sets a new Olympic record and wins the gold medal with 2min 7.64sec in the men's 200m breaststroke final

3. August 14, 2008 – The 24-year-old Naidan Tuvshinbayar gives Mongolia its first gold medal of the Olympic Games by winning the men's –100kg judo





Day 7

On Day 7, 18 gold medals would be handed out in 26 sports. Four swimming gold medals were at stake. Two gold medals would be awarded in athletics, canoe/kayak slalom, judo and weightlifting, and one each contested in archery, badminton, track cycling, fencing, artistic gymnastics and shooting.

Swimming continued to be the focus, but the opening of athletics attracted some attention. “Creating history” was becoming a buzzword these days, since new world records were being set in many venues. Andrei Rybakou of Belarus broke the world record in men’s 85kg weightlifting. In all the four swimming finals, world records were crushed, with Phelps pocketing his sixth gold medal of the Games.

Show Time in the Bird’s Nest

The National Stadium, or the “Bird’s Nest” saw a capacity crowd of over 90,000 on the first competition day of athletics at the Beijing Olympic Games.

The first gold medal was won by Tomasz Majewski of Poland in the men’s shot put final with a personal best

throw of 21.51m.

The first present Majewski received was from the spectators. They did “the Wave” to celebrate the first gold medal in the Bird’s Nest.

Like Father, Like Daughter

The crowd at the National Indoor Stadium applauded for Nastia Liukin, the winner of the women’s individual all-around gymnastics gold medal. Liukin kissed her father and coach, Valeri Liukin, after clinching the gold.

Liukin is the daughter of two former Soviet champion gymnasts – Olympic gold medalist Valeri Liukin and World Champion rhythmic gymnast Anna Kotchneva. Valeri had won an Olympic all-around silver medal at the Seoul 1988 Games, but never gold. Liukin started training and competing at a very young age. Like her father, winning an all-around gold medal was always her dream. From 1988 to 2008, from Seoul to Beijing, from silver to gold, this dream was passed on from father to daughter.



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1. August 15, 2008 – Athletics competitions begin in the National Stadium, also known as the “Bird’s Nest”
2. August 15, 2008 – American Nastia Liukin wins Women’s all-around gymnastics gold

The Last Arrow

South Korea dominated the Beijing 2008 archery events by winning the team gold medals. On this day, they fought for their first men’s individual Olympic title. But Viktor Ruban of Ukraine prevented it from happening by defeating 33-year-old Park Kyung-mo, 113-112, on the very last arrow.

Since World Archery champions Im Dong-hyun and Lee Chang-hwan were eliminated in the early stages of the competition, Park Kyung-mo became South Korea’s only hope. In the tightly-contested gold medal match, the world’s No.3 archer Park Kyung-mo and No.5 Viktor Ruban both delivered a solid performance. Before the last arrow, it was a 103-103 tie. For the last shot, Ruban went first and launched a 10. Park Kyung-mo, who is well-known as “Mr. Critical” and always takes the last shot in team competition, scored 9.

When asked whether he had done any special psychological training, Ruban said: “I do not have a psychological consultant. One has to deal with his state of mind himself.”

Twin Brothers, One Heart

Slovakia’s Hochschorner brothers, Peter and Pavol, completed a hat-trick of Olympic gold medals in the men’s C2 slalom race at the Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park on this day. The twin brothers have dominated the event for years and won the event in both the Sydney and the Athens Olympic Games.

Although having received a two second penalty in both the semi-final and the final, they finished first with their speed advantage.

Born on September 7 , 1979, Peter and Pavol came from a family that was heavily involved in canoeing. Their parents have both represented Czechoslovakia in slalom and their sister represented Slovakia in canoeing flatwater. The twin’s strength was flatwater racing, but both found it not to their liking. They decided to change disciplines for the faster and thrilling slalom C2 class in 1996. In the past eight years, they ranked world No.1. As for their next goal, they expect to gain a fourth consecutive win at London 2012 Olympic Games.

August 15, 2008 – Slovakia's Hochschorner brothers, Peter and Pavol (Front), win the gold medal in men's C2 slalom race



Day 8

On this day, 27 gold medals were to be handed out, the third most in the first 16 days of competition. Among the medals, seven were contested in rowing, four each in swimming and athletics, three in track cycling, two each in wrestling, shooting, and badminton, and one each in fencing, tennis and weightlifting. Apart from the gold medal events, 15 additional events were held as well.

Second-Hand Running Shoes

In the morning, Dana Hussein Abdul-Razzaq, a sprinter from Iraq, attracted special attraction, as she wore a loose T-shirt and a pair of second-hand sneakers for the preliminary of the women's 100m at the National Stadium.

In the second heat of the preliminaries, Hussein ran 12.36sec, third from the bottom of the field, a ranking which was not good enough to advance to the second round. In spite of her quick exit, she said the ranking was not important. As long as she could represent Iraq in Beijing, it was a triumph in and of itself.

She had sacrificed more than other athletes preparing for the Olympic Games. A case in point was a shooting incident that happened in December 2007. When she was training on the ragged track at Baghdad University, a sniper rushed into the training ground and opened fire. The bullet crossed barely missed Dana. She was so seriously threatened that she fainted on the track. Her coach woke her up and told that she had to leave at once. Albeit the unsatisfactory performance, she had no regrets. The young girl promised that when she returned to Iraq, as long as she was alive, she would never give up training and competing.

Success through Participation

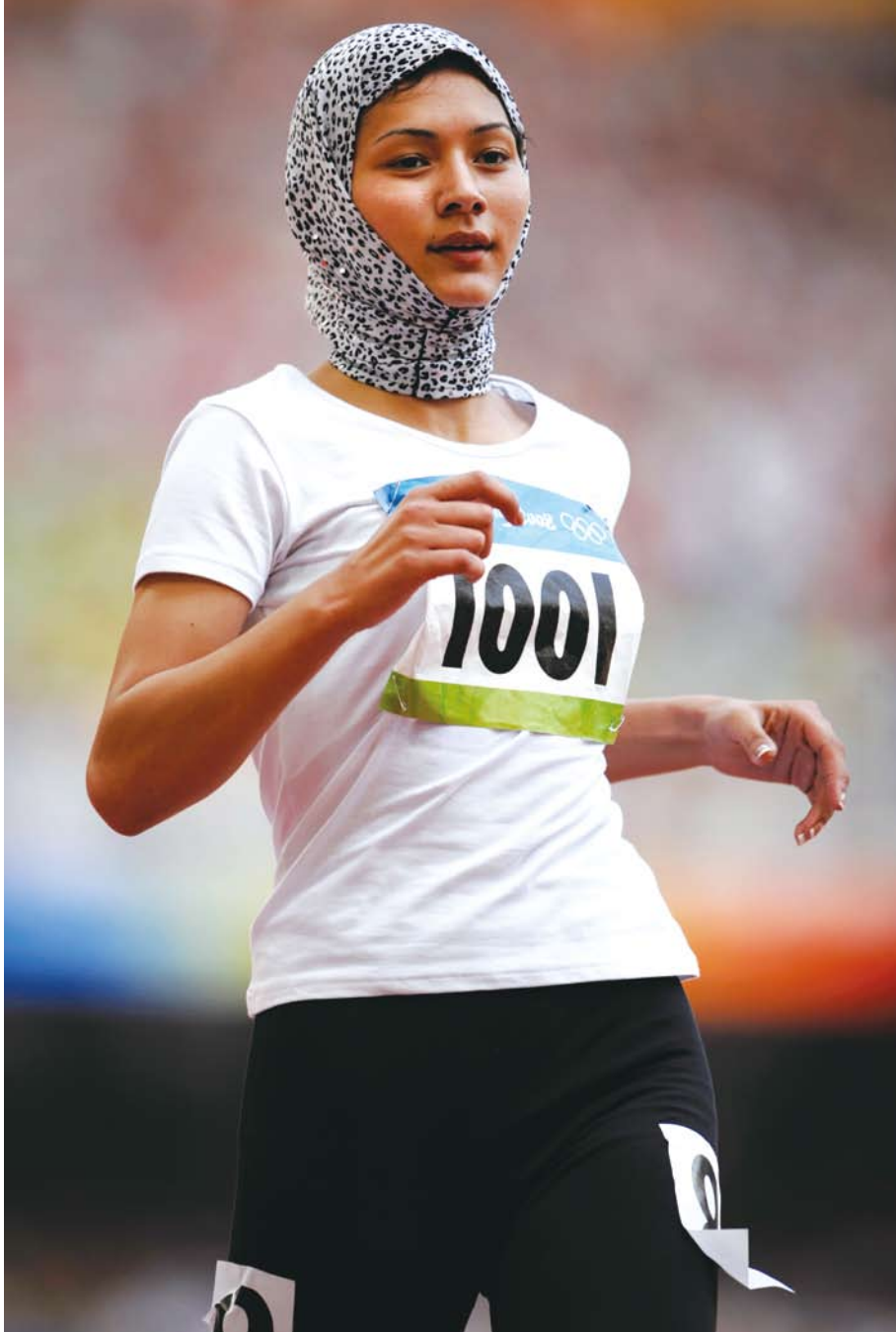
The sole female athlete from the Afghanistan delegation for the Beijing Olympic Games, Robina Muqimyar, did not receive notice that she would take part in the Games until mid-July. As a 22-year-old bank clerk, she had trained for less than a month before coming to Beijing.

In the past, representing Afghanistan, Robina took part in many international events, including the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Like most of her compatriot athletes, she doesn't have fixed training ground, let alone a professional running track. Therefore, she has to practice on concrete near her home. She said she would be more vulnerable to injuries if she ran on concrete. But they did not have any other options in Afghanistan. If they could get comprehensive training and enough sponsors, athletes from Afghanistan could also do well in the Olympics.

Robina ran a time of 14.80 seconds in the preliminaries of the 100m. In an interview after the race, she smiled and said she felt she had succeeded just by being on Beijing's track.

Close Bond Forged between Athletes and Horses

Renowned Dutch rider, Imke Schellekens-Bartels, announced that she would withdraw from this day's Grand Prix Special as a result of her horse's injury. According to the Dutch equestrian team, her horse, Sunrise, was found lame after the medal ceremony on Thursday night. Schellekens-Bartels said a small injury could very well develop into something bigger and could harm the horse. On account of this, she decided to withdraw from the competition.



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1. August 16, 2008 – Robina Muqimyar of Afghanistan competes in the Round One of women's 100m

2. August 17, 2008 – Ben Ainslie of Britain wins the Finn gold medal at the Olympic Sailing Regatta

3. August 17, 2008 – The United States' Matthew Emmons shoots an amateurish 4.4 points on his last shot in the men's 50m rifle three positions

The equestrian competition requires full cooperation between the rider and his/her horse. After years of training and many competitions, the rider and his/her horse form a very close bond. For the rider, medals are nothing compared with the health of their horse. On the previous Saturday, Famous French rider and gold medalist of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Nicolas Touzaint, also retired about 10 minutes before they were due into the arena because his horse Galan de Sauvagere was injured.

100m Butterfly and 100m Dash

On this morning, American mega-Olympian Michael Phelps won the men's 100m butterfly gold medal, his seventh of the Beijing Games. He out-touched runner-

up Serbian Milorad Cavic by 0.01 of a second, the smallest possible margin of victory in swimming.

In the evening, Usain Bolt of Jamaica dashed into the Olympic men's 100m sprint finals with a stunning time of 9.69 seconds, breaking the world record. He even began celebrating before crossing the finish line, showboating with his arms outstretched before slapping his chest in triumph, a move that captured the attention of the whole world.



Day 9

This Sunday was the ninth competition day of the Beijing Games, where 37 gold medals were awarded in 24 events, the most gold medals awarded on a single day thus far in the Games. Seven of them came from rowing, six from field events, four respectively from gymnastics and swimming, three respectively from sailing and tennis, two from wrestling and badminton, and one gold medal each from track cycling, diving, fencing, shooting, table tennis, weightlifting, etc.

The host country China gained eight gold medals in gymnastics, table tennis and badminton.

Eight Great Gold Medals

In the race that delivered Michael Phelps' eighth medal – the 4×100m medley relay on Sunday morning – the US team finished in a world record time of 3:29.34. His eighth gold medal made Phelps the single-most decorated Olympian in history, as he also broke seven world records. He also has won more gold medals than anyone in Olympic history – 14 gold medals in two Olympic Games.

On the top of the medals podium, Michael Phelps gained his own eighth "Portor Gold" (gold inlaid with jade), as well as an honour medal from Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA), which was a total surprise to him.

Three Women Go Beyond Themselves

The Marathon is an event that challenges the physical limits of the human body as the spirit and will of an individual. Three women athletes – 38-year old Constantina Tomescu, 36-year old Catherine Ndereba and 35-year old Paula Radcliffe exemplified enduring spirit, as they went beyond themselves to finish the women's marathon.

Romanian Constantina Tomescu crossed the finish line of the women's marathon to claim the title at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2hr 26.44min. Before Sunday, her best achievement was a bronze medal at the 2005 World Championships.

"It was a great performance. I'm very happy to win a medal, but especially the gold. At the World



August 17, 2008 – Romanian Constantina Tomescu crosses the finish line of the women's marathon to claim the title

Championships in Canada, everybody said I couldn't run, but I showed today what I can do," said the victor. She is the eldest Marathon Champion in Olympic history.

Catherine Ndereba of Kenya came in second, clocking a time of 2hr 27.06min, adding another silver medal to her success at the Athens Games.

Britain's Paula Radcliffe finished 23rd. However, the crowd still showed respect by applauding her efforts. As a world record holder, she was a seed of inspiration at the Beijing Games. Just before coming to Beijing, Radcliffe was diagnosed with a thighbone fracture. She insisted on coming to Beijing and competing. At the beginning of the last 30 kilometres, Radcliffe had to suspend her race due to great pain. After a short time, she returned to the course and continued running.

Misfiring Again

Matt Emmons again misfired with gold in sight. Four years ago, he lost a gold medal by shooting at someone else's target during the three-position rifle final. Four years later, he made that mistake again. Having led from the start, Emmons needed less than seven points. Somehow, the incredible episode was painfully unfolding once again. The result: an abysmal score of 4.4. For the second straight Olympics, Emmons had forfeited a gold medal with a shocking mistake on the final shot. His misfire gave the gold to Qiu Jian of China.

He did not scream or sulk. His wife Katerina held her face close to his and offered a few words of comfort, as the crowd politely applauded the couple.

The Recipe of a Gold Medalist

After weather delays postponed competition on August 16, Sarah Ayton, Sarah Webb and Pippa Wilson of Great Britain won the first completed medal race of the Olympic Sailing Regatta on Sunday to win gold in the Yingling (women's keelboat), the second consecutive Olympic gold for Great Britain in the boat class. The British team finished with 24 points overall, while the Netherlands finished second with 33 points overall. The British team rounded the first weather mark in the lead and pulled away on the final run to the finish, creating a gap of 250 metres on the Dutch boat. Ayton and Webb added to the gold they had won in the 2007 and 2008 Yingling World Championships. Webb said: "We are so pleased. We have received millions of congratulatory text messages. And Princess Anne also extends her congratulations to us."

Shortly after Britain's Yingling team took the first sailing gold, defending Olympic champion Ben Ainslie of Great Britain won gold in the Finn (heavyweight dinghy) in style, placing first in the medal race and finishing with 23 points overall, 22 points better than the next competitor. Ainslie is the third sailor in Olympic history to strike gold in three successive games. He told media after competition: "I am not superhuman. I won the gold through rigorous training and persistence. Under pressure, I never shrank back." He also said humorously, "I like Chinese dishes. They're probably part of my winning recipe."

Day 10

Eighteen gold medals were expected to be produced in 22 big competition events on this day. The Bird's Nest has become the focus after the swimming events have come to an end in the neighbouring Water Cube. athletics events were expected to produce six gold medals. Three gold medals were to be handed out in gymnastics and two each in sailing and track cycling events. Five fell into weightlifting, table tennis, triathlon, trampoline and equestrian.

"Flying Man" Liu Xiang's Pullout

Though many gold medal battles were to unfold, the only focus for the Chinese spectators seated in the Bird's Nest was Liu Xiang, China's first and only male World and Olympic track champion. On this day, The 110m hurdles champion at the Athens Olympic Games was to launch his first performance.

Liu drew lane two in heat six of the 110m hurdles. He looked uncomfortable rather than his usually confident self. He took his position with the other athletes and jumped out of the blocks when the starting pistol fired. It was a false start, but it did not matter. Liu Xiang was injured. He tore off his number that was affixed on his leg and walked out of the Bird's Nest stadium in

front of a disbelieving audience.

Liu Xiang had withdrawn. In the Bird's Nest, which was filled to a capacity of 90,000 spectators, there was only silence and tears.

A press conference was soon convened at which Sun Haiping, his coach, struggled to finish a sentence because he, too, could not stop weeping. The hurdler, according to Sun, suffered an injury in the Achilles' tendon more than six years ago, but it had worsened during recent training. His fans, though disappointed, expressed their understanding and support to this Olympic star. On Liu's website, some wrote: "I have great sympathy for him and wish him a speedy recovery."

Sharing Joy with Family

The U.S. women's football team won a 4-2 victory against Japan after rallying from an earlier deficit when Japan opened the scoring in the 16th minute, giving the U.S. a berth in the Olympic final against Brazil.

Kate Markgraf, choosing not to celebrate with her teammates after the match, rushed to the stands





where her son was cheering. The boy, wearing a U.S. team uniform with his mother's number 15, was led to the field and waved to the spectators.

Great Britain's Gold Rush

Bradley Wiggins, Ed Clancy, Paul Manning and Geraint Thomas took gold in world-record time in the men's team pursuit as the Britons continued to set the standard at Laoshan Velodrome and claimed their fifth gold medal in four days.

The British team's time of 3min 53.314sec shaved the best part of two seconds off the world record mark that they had reduced by a second only 24 hours earlier. Given the 3min 56.322sec record they set at the World Championships in Manchester, the Britons had smashed their own world record three successive times.

Pole Vaulting Queen's Self-challenge

The Russian pole vaulting queen Yelena Isinbayeva

continued to prove her dominance in the event. She claimed the gold medal and set a new world record in the Bird's Nest.

Starting from 4.70 metres, she then took her second jump at 4.85 metres and it was enough. No one could beat that. And so, as a personal lap of honour, she upped the bar to 4.95. To her dismay, she failed twice, but she cleared it on her third attempt to set a new Olympic record. Blowing kisses for all the people lucky enough to be there, she was just getting started. She is the only woman to have cleared five metres, and she had broken the world record twice in the past month. Now she had the bar raised to 5.05 metres to try for one more record.

She failed to clear the bar twice. But on her last jump, cranking her determination up to the absolute maximum, she succeeded.

It was the third world record born out of the Bird's Nest and Isinbayeva's 24th world record.

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1. August 18, 2008 – The United States beats Japan 4-2 in a semifinal in the Olympic women's football competition and advances to the final. The children of US players celebrate with their mothers

2. August 18, 2008 – Chinese gymnast Chen Yibing (Right) claims the men's rings title. Chen's compatriot Yang Wei (Left) takes the silver



Day 11

Day eleven saw 20 gold medals in 22 disciplines, of which five were in athletics, three in track cycling and artistic gymnastics, two in wrestling and sailing, and one in weightlifting, triathlon, trampoline, equestrian and diving.

China, U.S. and Great Britain each claimed four gold medals, which strengthened their leading positions in the medal standings.

Cheer of the King

Rashid Ramzi of Bahrain won the men's 1,500m title to give Bahrain its first-ever Olympic gold medal. He won in 3hr 32.94sec, out-sprinting the field for the Gulf country's first medal in six Olympic Games dating back to Los Angeles in 1984.

In Manama, Bahrain's capital far away from Beijing, the King of Bahrain watched the race on TV and began to

cheer as Ramzi crossed the finish line first. He sent his congratulations to Ramzi on his great achievement, regarding him as a true national hero. People in Manama threw a street parade to celebrate the victory.

"She gives me strength"

The whole world witnessed a most touching moment at the men's +105kg weightlifting medals ceremony. Matthias Steiner of Germany, the champion, held his gold medal with right hand while showing a picture of his late wife Susan in the left. He dedicated the gold to his late wife.

Steiner's wife was killed in a car accident in July 2007. His love for her helped him complete the amazing final lift. "She is always with me. She gives me strength. I hope she saw my success", Steiner said. Steiner's gold was Germany's first gold medal in a weightlifting event in 16 years.



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1. August 19, 2008 – Gerd Kanter of Estonia wins the gold medal in the men's discus throw
2. August 19, 2008 – Germany's Matthias Steiner is on the podium with the picture of his late wife after winning the gold medal in the men's +105kg weightlifting class
3. August 19, 2008 – Juan Esteban Curuchet and Walter Fernando Perez of Argentina celebrate after clinching the gold in men's madison competition
4. August 19, 2008 – Players of Brazil and Argentina vie with each other in the men's football match

Men's Football Semifinal: Argentina Vs. Brazil

Ronaldinho and Messi played for Brazil and Argentina, which gave the men's football semifinal game in the Beijing Workers' Stadium more cachet than the Olympic football tournament usually garners. However, they were both outshined by Argentine striker Sergio Aguero, who was dating Diego Maradona's daughter.

Argentina hammered Brazil 3-0, with Aguero scoring two goals. Maradona watched the game in the stands. When the game was over, he visited the locker room and congratulated the players. "You guys are amazing. I believe you will move on," he said. And then, he hugged Aguero, his daughter's boyfriend.

Hoy's Third Gold

The track cycling competition was finally concluded.

Great Britain ended with seven golds, three silvers and two bronzes in all ten track cycling events.

On the last day, well-known British track cyclist, Chris Hoy, completed a hat-trick of gold medals by beating teammate Jason Kenny 2-0 in the final of the men's individual sprint.

On the first day, Britain led by Hoy, beat France for the gold medal in the men's cycling team sprint, avenging three straight losses to their top rivals at the World Championships. After being part of the victorious team sprint trio, he received his second gold of the Games in men's keirin.



1	1. August 20, 2008 – Mexico's Guillermo Perez gets the men's 58kg taekwondo title, beating Gabriel Yulis Mercedes of the Dominican Republic
2	2. August 20, 2008 – Usain Bolt of Jamaica clocks a new world record to win the Olympic 200m gold medal

Day 12

After the gold rush of the previous few days, a total of 11 golds would be vied for on this day, thus far ranking as the second busiest day of the Games in terms of competing for gold medals. Among the 11 golds, three were contested in athletics, two each in sailing, taekwondo and wrestling, and one each in swimming and synchronized swimming.

Twenty sports took place on this day. And Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, became the Beijing Olympic's second superstar, following Michael Phelps' lead.

A Second Gold as Birthday Gift

That night, in the men's 200m final, Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, shattered Michael Johnson's 12-year-old world mark of 19.32sec, with a stunning time of 19.30sec.

Bolt became the first man to win the men's 100m and 200m in the same Olympic Games since American Carl Lewis did it in 1984. After crossing the finish line, Bolt celebrated his victory by shouting and dancing barefooted on the track.

The next day would be Bolt's 22nd birthday. He celebrated it early with another gold medal as well as world record, which gave himself a pretty nice birthday gift, as the spectators in the Bird's Nest sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

Congratulatory Phone Call from the President

For the Mexican people, this day was a memorable one. In the final of men's 58kg taekwondo, Perez Guillermo of Mexico snatched the gold, defeating Yulis Gabriel Mercedes of the Dominican Republic. This was the first Olympic gold won by a Mexican team in eight years.

Later Calderon, President of Mexico, sent his congratulations by phone from Mexico. "All the Mexican people need such a victory," he said. In the last Olympic Games, the Mexican team had won a total of three silver medals and one bronze medal. Perez's

gold was also the first Olympic gold won by a male sportsman from Mexico in 24 years.

Natalie Creates a Miracle

On this day, after the Women's 10km swimming marathon, Natalie du Toit of South Africa, who finished the race a creditable 16th out of a field of 24 swimmers, received enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The 24-year-old swimmer, who lost her left leg in a road accident in 2001, competed in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. She won five gold medals at the Athens Paralympic Games. She was also the flagbearer of the South African team at the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games. Larisa Ichenko of Russia, the winner of the race, said, "I'd like to award her a special prize if possible."

Afghanistan Barber Wins the Country's First-ever Medal

"My motherland has suffered the infliction of war for many years. I hope that the news of my victory today will send a message of peace back to my country and bring happiness to my compatriots."

Under the special financial support of the UN, Afghanistan dispatched a team of four athletes to participate in the Beijing Olympic Games. Nikpai Rohullah, one of the four, is in fact a barber at home. He supports a family by cutting hair for others in the daytime; he often practiced weightlifting in the morning and practiced taekwondo in the evening. On this day, in men's 58kg taekwondo bronze medal contest, Nikpai, in his first Olympic Games, defeated Ramos Juan Antonio of Spain, the former world champion, to claim a precious bronze medal.

Nikpai's victory aroused a fervent response in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. The local TV station interrupted what was being broadcasted for the news of Nikpai winning the bronze. In a minute's time, the good news was known to every household in Kabul.



Day 13

A total of 21 gold medals were handed out in 12 of the 19 sports which took place on this day. Among the gold medals, six were awarded in athletics, three were contested in the conclusion of the wrestling events, two each contested in taekwondo and sailing, and one each in sports of water polo, swimming, modern pentathlon, football, equestrian, diving, and beach volleyball.

The contests in the co-host cities of Qingdao and Hong Kong came to an end on this day, with a total of eleven golds handed out in Qingdao's sailing venues and six golds handed out in Hong Kong's equestrian venues. These two cities did an exemplary job in co-hosting the Games of the XXIX Olympiad. Their efforts were definitely appreciated by athletes, officials and spectators alike. Sarah Webb, a British sailing athlete said that she would never forget her stay in China during the Olympic Games.

Once a Leukemia Patient, Now an Olympic Gold Medalist

Maarten van der Weijden of the Netherlands won the

gold medal in the inaugural men's 10km swimming marathon held on this morning in a time of 1:51:51.6.

The Dutch swimmer, who returned to competitive swimming after beating leukemia, which was diagnosed in 2001, had not ranked among the pre-race favourites. Therefore, his victory was miraculous.

"I've drawn a lesson from my fight with leukemia which is I need to be patient in life," van der Weijden said after the race.

Paraguay's Beautiful Javelin Thrower

Leryn Franco, a 26-year-old Paraguayan javelin thrower, was considered one of the most beautiful athletes at the Beijing Olympic Games. She was a runner-up in the Miss Paraguay beauty pageant as well as a runner-up in the Miss Bikini Universe pageant in 2006. Basically, she has quite the modeling resume to go along with her athletic prowess.

During the competition, she was wearing a pair of pretty sunglasses, and her healthy complexion and

slim figure made her the centre of attention on the javelin field.

It was reported that she was chosen by a modeling company after the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, after which she became a professional model. “Javelin throwing makes me look prettier than any piece of clothing does,” Leryn said.

She failed to win a place in the final with a mark of 45.34 metres. After the event, she told journalists that she might not take part in the next Olympic Games but had never regretted being a javelin thrower.

Heroine in the Taekwondo Ring

Su Li-wen, the 28-year-old taekondo fighter from Chinese Taipei, finished in 5th place in the women’s taekwondo tournament, and yet she won widespread praise from the spectators. Despite serious foot injuries and her coach’s advice for her to stop, Su picked herself up 14 times from the floor to battle to the very end of the women’s 57kg taekwondo bronze medal match. She was tied with Croatia’s Martina Zubcic 4-4 after the first three rounds of the match, but lost the contest by a decisive point in the fourth round. Her coach had to carry her out of the ring.

Su’s father was diagnosed with cancer the past February and this was her last shot at a medal. Before she came to Beijing for the Olympic Games, she and her father made a promise to each other, “Father will fight for recovery and daughter will fight for the Olympic gold medal.”

After the bronze medal contest, her Croatian opponent said, “She is an outstanding athlete. It is unfortunate that she was so badly injured.”

Uzbekistan’s First Gold Comes Late

This day was the last day of Wrestling at Beijing’s Olympic Games. Three-time Olympian Uzbekistan’s Artur Taymazov successfully defended his title in the Men’s 120kg Freestyle Wrestling category by defeating Russia’s Bakhtiyar Akhmedov in the final. He also won the first gold medal for Team Uzbekistan. After the match, he said, “My country holds great expectations for me. And I did it. I feel very honoured to be able to win the first gold for my country.”

Twenty-nine-year old Taymazov went to the final in his previous two Olympic journeys. He took a silver medal in Sydney and eventually won a gold medal in Athens.

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- 1. August 21, 2008 – Maarten van der Weijden of the Netherlands wins the gold medal in the men’s marathon 10km swimming race. maarten (Left) celebrates
- 2. Taekwondo player Su Li-wen of Chinese Taipei comes to the Olympic Village on a wheelchair to meet friends
- 3. August 21, 2008 – Paraguay’s javelin thrower Leryn Franco takes a break





Day 14

A total of 21 gold medals were handed out in 16 sports on this day, among which seven were awarded in athletics, six in canoe/kayak of flatwater, two each in taekwondo and BMX cycling, and one each in beach volleyball, hockey, modern pentathlon and table tennis.

Also on this day, two-time sprint gold medalist Usain Bolt led Jamaica to a victory in the men's 4×100m relay with a new world record of 37.10sec at the Beijing Olympic Games.

The Spirit of Persistence during the Olympics

Twenty-two-year-old Monteiro Wania of Cape Verde finished last out of 24 gymnasts in the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around qualification rounds, just as she did in Athens four years ago.

5



August 22, 2008 – Jamaica smashes the world record to win gold in the men's 4X100m relay with the time of 37.10sec



She had the worst score (49.050) of the field on all four apparatus: rope, hoops, clubs and ribbon, which meant that her second and last journey to the Olympic Games would draw to an early close.

But on the face of the 1.70-metre girl was not a look of disappointment, but instead, an unchanging sweet smile. "It is a great pleasure that I can take part in the Olympic Games. I came here just to do my best," Monteiro said.

She added that she was very lucky to get the opportunity to come to the Beijing Olympic Games and more lucky to become the flagbearer of her country during the Opening Ceremony.

Well done, Hong Kong

The equestrian events of the Beijing Olympic Games drew to a successful close on the night of August 21 in Hong Kong.



In the early morning, Princess Haya of Jordan, the President of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) held a news conference at the Hong Kong Olympic Equestrian Venue (Sha Tin). "The equestrian events in Hong Kong were wonderful. The atmosphere in the equestrian arenas was very good," she said.

She added that the Beijing Olympic Games had given the Chinese people a good opportunity to watch the fantastic performances of professional equestrian athletes from different countries and regions of the world.

Hong Kong's success of co-hosting the equestrian events at the Beijing Olympic Games was applauded by the IOC, the FEI, and all countries and spectators. Jacques Rogge, president of the IOC, said on an inspection visit to the Hong Kong equestrian events, "It has been proven that Hong Kong was the correct choice of venue for the equestrian events at the Beijing Olympic Games."



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1. August 22, 2008 – Anne-Caroline Chausson of France wins the title of the women’s BMX event of the Olympic cycling tournament. Chausson is on the podium with her medal

2. August 22, 2008 – Hadi Saei of Iran claims the men’s 80kg taekwondo title, beating Mauro Sarmiento of Italy

3. August 22, 2008 – Ma Lin of China wins over Oh Sang-eun of the Republic of Korea 4-0 in the men’s table tennis quarter finals

Hadi Saei Wins Iran’s First Beijing Gold

On this day’s men’s -80kg taekwondo final, Hadi Saei, the 33-year-old Iranian World and Olympic champion won his second Olympic taekwondo gold medal and Iran’s first Beijing gold by defeating Mauro Sarmiento of Italy.

Saei, who moved up to the welterweight class after winning the -68kg Olympic gold in Athens, lost the first round 4-2 after Sarmiento stunned him with a two-point axe kick to the head. Saei battled back in the second round and managed to tie the score at 4-4 with roundhouse kicks to his opponents left side. Saei attacked first in the third round to score two points and secured a 6-4 victory in a stunning-comeback fashion.

Sarmiento, who had earlier defeated Steven Lopez of America, a two-time Olympic gold-medalist and four-time world champion, in the quarterfinals, raised Saei’s hand to congratulate the veteran. “I feel very good tonight. It is a great honour for me to compete

with such taekwondo legends as Peloz and Hadi,” Sarmiento said, not showing any visible sign of disappointment in his failure to win the gold.

First Gold Medal of BMX-Cycling is Handed Out

Anne-Caroline Chausson of France won the gold medal with a time of 35.976sec in the women’s race as BMX made its Olympic debut on this morning.

“I want to present this gold to my father. He passed away last year. I feel sad that he could not be here to watch the race,” Chausson said after the race.



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1. August 23, 2008 – Matthew Mitcham of Australia claims the gold medal with the total score of 537.95 in men's 10m platform diving held in the National Aquatics Centre also known as "Water Cube". Mitcham (Right) receives congratulations

2. August 23, 2008 – The Republic of Korea wins the baseball gold medal at the Beijing Olympic Games

3. August 21, 2008 – Japan knocks off the United States 3-1 in the Olympic softball tournament and wins the gold



Day 15

This day was the second to last day of the Beijing Games, when the second-largest number of gold medals, 32, in one day would be handed out, among which seven would be awarded in athletics, six in canoe/kayak, five in boxing, two each in taekwondo and mountain biking, and one each from baseball, basketball, diving, football, rhythmic gymnastics, handball, hockey, synchronised swimming, table tennis and volleyball. It was a golden day for Russia, who won four gold medals and ranked third in the medal standings.

Surreal Victory

China's quest for a sweep of diving gold medals ended in a shocking fashion, as Matthew Mitcham of Australia performed a spectacular final dive that rocketed him into first place in the men's 10m platform. "Absolutely surreal. I never thought it was possible," said Mitcham about winning gold. He claimed that his legs became sore because of overexertion, and his face hurt because he was so happy that he couldn't stop laughing.

Zhou Luxin of China, the leader in the round through five dives, put in his worst dive of the night in the last round. On the other hand, a perfectly executed final dive gave Mitcham, the 20-year-old diver the perfect ending to his Olympic debut.

In 2006, Mitcham was injured, but he was in a good shape after coming back from a year break. He said after the event, "I wasn't even really sure of my medal chances at all. After the last dive I thought 'that's it, silver medal, fantastic.' Then I looked up and saw I'd come first."

Sharing the Olympic Inspiration with Sichuan Children

Triple Olympic sprint gold medalist Jamaican Usain Bolt made a personal donation of US\$50,000 to children in the earthquake-stricken Sichuan Province, and wished people there a speedy recovery in moving forward with the inspiration of the Olympic Games.







"I felt sorry for the victims, so I asked my management team to do something," said Bolt. "They are kids. They deserve a better future. I hope they can still enjoy themselves, because they are still kids. And, it's great for kids to enjoy life. I just want to help them," he added. Talking about the Olympic Games, Bolt said that he felt welcomed in China, and was moved by the Chinese people. He said he was moved to tears on the night of winning the 200m race, when more than 90,000 spectators in the National Stadium, sang "Happy Birthday" to him.

On the same day, Former Brazilian soccer star Pele went to China's ancient imperial palace of the Forbidden City, where he met young earthquake victims from Sichuan Province. The little hero Lin Hao from Wenchuan County, the quake's epicentre, who had saved two of his classmates, received a Pele autographed yellow jersey from the Brazilian football team.

Baseball's Farewell Performance

In what was possibly the last Olympic appearance for baseball, the Republic of Korea defeated multi-gold winner Cuba 3-2 under the lights of Wukesong Baseball Field. This was the South Korea's first Olympic Baseball gold medal. South Korea also became the first Asian country to win a baseball gold, since 1992, when baseball was classified as an official Olympic event.

The Olympic Softball tournament was decided in a similar fashion, as Japan knocked off the perennial champions from the United States 3-1 and won their first Softball gold.

Beautiful Olympics

Russia took the gold medals of rhythmic gymnastics and synchronised swimming, both known as the most beautiful Olympic events.

The 18-year-old Evgeniya Kanaeva had the top score (75.500) of the field on all four apparatus: rope, hoops, clubs and ribbon, and gave Russia their third consecutive Olympic Games title in the individual all-around. Kanaeva, known as the "future queen" of rhythmic gymnastics, was born into an athletics family. Her mother is a former gymnast, and his father a famous Greco-Roman wrestling coach.

In the synchronised swimming team event that afternoon, Russian athletes retained the gold medal for the third consecutive time by finishing with a perfect 100.00 performance in the free routine for a cumulative score of 99.500 points. Spain claimed the silver, while China earned their first bronze.



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1. August 23, 2008 – Former Brazilian soccer star Pele goes to China's ancient imperial palace of the Forbidden City, where he meets the press, holding the little earthquake hero Lin Hao, who wears a Pele autographed jersey

2. August 23, 2008 – Jamaican Usain Bolt makes a personal donation to the children in the earthquake-stricken Sichuan Province. On the donating ceremony, Bolt signs for Huang Siyu (Centre), a child from Yingxiu County, Sichuan

3. August 23, 2008 – Russian Evgeniya Kanaeva (Middle) wins the rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around gold medal. Belarus's Inna Zhukova (Left) earns the silver, and Ukraine's Anna Bessonova gets the bronze



Day 16

On this day, the medal tally would be closed and athletes from around the world would pack their bags, but not before competing for the final 12 gold medals on the 16th and final day of the Beijing Games, among which six would be awarded in boxing, and one each from athletics, basketball, rhythmic gymnastics,

handball, volleyball and water polo.

Also, another thing that was exciting about this day was that major team event finals would take place. Preliminary round robins, quarterfinals and semifinals – these teams have fought through days



of competition to put it all on the line in one final match.

“Redeem Team” Dream Realised

The 2006 World Champion Spanish squad brought its best effort to make sure the “Redeem Team” didn’t coast through the gold medal match, but the United States still prevailed 118-107 to win back the gold medal. Kobe Bryant and Dwyane Wade were the top scorers for Team USA, weighing in with 20 and 27 points each. Spain also played a superb match and kept the Americans on the ropes all the way to the very end with one dazzling basket after another.

It was by far the best match of the tournament, and also the most expected one. David Beckham was among the delighted spectators.

As the winning Americans stood on the podium, they all excitingly displayed their medals and celebrated. This was really a great team, winning all eight games, with a PPG differential of 27.9 and an opponent PPG of 78.4.

Iceland Handball Team Made History

Before August 24, Iceland hadn’t won a single medal in the Games, but on this day, their handball team made





history by entering the men's handball gold medal match, and winning the silver for their country.

In the history of the Olympic Games, Iceland has never won a gold medal and has made it to the podium only three times for one silver and two bronze medals. Of the nation's Olympic contingent, which included 27 athletes who qualified for the Games, 15 were handball players. According to Ólafur Rafnsson, the head of the Iceland delegation, the country didn't have any plans to grab medals, and their men's handball team stood the greatest chance to win one. Reaching the semifinals and winning over Spain, the team had already written history. At last, France took gold 28-23 to deny Iceland what could have been its first-ever Olympic gold medal.

"This is the biggest moment in Icelandic sports history," said Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson. "I think it's a message to the international sports movement, that anything is possible." And the captain Olafur Stefansson remarked: "The important thing is to have given joy and happiness to 300,000 people who speak the same language as I do. That's what it's about."

The Return of the Gold

The United States claimed its third Olympic men's volleyball gold medal after 20 years, by defeating Athens Olympic champion Brazil to complete the tournament with a perfect record, ending Brazil's dominance in men's volleyball. The United States was also the Olympic champion at Los Angeles in 1984 and Seoul in 1988.

At the beginning of the match, Brazil's offense prevailed and closed the first set 25-20. Clayton Stanley, the best scorer and best server of the tournament, led the U.S. attack and hit two consecutive kills to finish the second set 25-22. The U.S. proved their quality with consecutive victories of 25-21 and 25-23, and finally won the gold. Stanley scored 20 points in the game.

One More Gold Medal

Samuel Kamau Wanjiru of Kenya set a new Olympic record of 2hr 6.32min in the men's marathon to claim gold on this final morning of Olympic competition. Wanjiru became the first male runner from Kenya to win gold in this event.

"My plan was to push the limits, push my body. Now I am very happy with my pace," he said after the race. "It feels good to make history here. It feels good to make history for Kenya and win the gold," he added.

August 24, 2008 – Samuel Kamau Wanjiru of Kenya sets a new Olympic record of 2hr 6.32min in the men's marathon to claim the gold

Billions worldwide watched and applauded as the IOC President Jacques Rogge, accompanied by the President of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), Lamine Diack, presented Wanjiru with the gold medal, which brought the curtain down on a highly successful Games.





Chapter 5

Comprehensive Games-time Service

During the Games, professionals from different trades devoted themselves to a successful Olympic Games.

117 hotels, 23 caterers, 94 suppliers and 24 hospitals had been chosen to make up the main body of the Olympic service system.

During the Games, the contracted hotels received 638,000 guests, with an average of 31,000 during the peak days; caterers served 4.98 million meals; Olympic Village polyclinics and medical stations received 20,959 patients while the designated hospitals for the Olympic Games received 4,855. In the course of the Olympic Games, over 7,000 vehicles and 22,000 drivers and conductors worked for Olympic guests including over 100 distinguished guests, and covered a distance of 14.50 million kilometres.

So far, the Beijing Olympic Games has been the most important occasion that has taken place in Beijing. To guarantee a successful Olympic Games, people from all walks of life participated in providing logistics support.



5.1 Transportation Services



Beijing Capital International Airport was the first stop of guests in Beijing. On arriving in China, they were welcomed with warmth and convenience.

The magnificent dragon-shaped Terminal 3 officially opened its doors for operation in 2008. Standing at 986,000 square metres, the 2900m×790m×45m T3 is the world's largest airport terminal complex.

August 6, 7 and 8 saw the busiest days in the history of Beijing Capital International Airport. On August 7 alone, over 200 flights carried some 3,000 Olympic Family members and officials to Beijing; among them were U.S. President George W. Bush, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, Israeli President Shimon Peres and Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar. On arriving at the VIP area, the guests were greeted by a red Olympic wall presenting photos of Chinese sports stars and they were invited to sign their names or write down their good wishes to Beijing on the display board.

All the international dignitaries

experienced top-class service at the Beijing Capital International Airport. It took less than ten minutes for them upon landing to leave the airport. Jacques Rogge, the IOC president, was impressed that his luggage was delivered to the lounge before he arrived at the airport on July 31.

Four colours were used to paint the floor to mark separate exits for passengers. Purple was for Olympic Family members, green for accredited media, light blue for technical officials and dark blue for athletes and team officials. It took passengers less time to get to their exclusive vehicles under the direction of different colours.

The organisation and implementation of the plan to transport athletes, officials, spectators, performers and staff before and after the Opening Ceremony posed a big challenge to the traffic capacity of Beijing because it involved the most participants in Olympic history. The departure of 160,000 participants to the Ceremony was completed within 75 minutes. The participants' departure was carried out in waves – heads of state and officials left

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1. The Beijing Capital International Airport Terminal 3 Concourse (T3)

2. Inside of the Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 3 Concourse (T3)



within 27 minutes, athletes 50 minutes and the rest 75 minutes.

According to the usual practice of the past Games, Beijing also launched Olympic lanes during the Games. The Olympic lanes were designated exclusively for Olympic vehicles holding an Olympic Vehicle Access & Parking Permit (VAPP). The 286-kilometre-long lanes linked the airport, the Olympic Village, hotels for media, non-competition venues, training venues and other related facilities for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Traffic police took temporary traffic control measures to guarantee the successful passage of Olympic vehicles during the Games.

“Green Travel” was another measure taken to ensure smooth traffic during the Olympic Games. A temporary control which restricted cars to driving on alternate days had been in effect from July 20 to September 20. During that time, more than 2,000 extra buses were put to use and 34 Olympic bus lines and three expressways were open in Beijing to improve public

transportation. In addition, 95 per cent of the 66,000 taxis in Beijing were in use everyday, serving 600,000 more passengers than usual.

Bicycles have always played a vital role in promoting the concept of “Green Travel”. During the Olympic Games, Beijing residents could rent a bicycle at any subway station at Line 1, Line 2 and Line 5. According to statistics, 50,000 bicycles had been ready for rent before August, 2008.

A comprehensive traffic network was accomplished to meet the travel demands of passenger flow increase during the Olympic Games. It consisted of eight subway lines and the public transit system. Meanwhile, 10 intelligent traffic management systems included a command and control system, an auto-checking and warning system, and a real-time traffic prediction system were launched to make public traffic more efficient and effective.

At the time of the Games, some sports ran late at night.



Basketball had attracted the most spectators during the Beijing Olympic Games. Starting from August 9, the games lasted until early the next morning every day, so did some other games such as tennis and swimming. So both buses and main subway lines ran extra hours according to the competition schedule.

Apart from longer operating hours, a low fare was another feature of public transportation in Beijing. A two-*yuan* ticket would suffice for riding the eight subway lines, including transfers and the bus fare was as low as one *yuan* per person per ride. Furthermore, the Airport Expressway charged only 25 *yuan*. In addition, free rides were also available for staff, volunteers, and media personnel holding valid documentation. And spectators were entitled to free rides with a ticket.

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1. The exclusive Olympic traffic lanes on the West Fourth Ring Road, Beijing

2. During the Beijing Olympic Games, the journalists go to the competition venues for an interview by taking the shuttle bus for the media



5.2 Security and Medical Care



A total of 110,000 staffs and volunteers worked for the security of the Beijing Olympic Games. Everyday, they worked hard to secure the Games. Only after the venues were empty late at night would they feel relieved and take a breath. Their hard work had guaranteed a successful Olympic Games.

The Opening Ceremony on August 8 posed a great challenge on the security staff because the heads of state of over 80 countries and regions participated. Due to the advanced security system and the hard work of each and every security staff, all the people left the National Stadium safe and sound.

On the eve of the Opening Ceremony, 30 sniffer-dogs searched the Bird's Nest for the last time and experts searched every inch of the venue using detection devices.

The Bird's Nest was closed before the Opening Ceremony and all the important facilities and the underground pipelines were under surveillance. To secure the Opening Ceremony, a special digital ticket

was required to enter the Bird's Nest. Belongings of anyone entering the venue were first scanned by an X-ray machine and then a hand-held detector. Each and every vehicle entering the Bird's Nest had gone through a thorough inspection. An exclusive access for the dignitaries had been built with explosion-proof steel boards as the exterior wall and gilded mosaic as the interior wall. An escalator had been installed to directly carry guests to the VIP box on the fourth floor.

The fireworks show at the Opening Ceremony had impressed the spectators. Before the Ceremony, firefighters had made a concerted effort to secure the fireworks show. From February 2008, six tests had been run to ensure that it would be safe to use fireworks at the Opening Ceremony. Hosepipes had been laid around the top of the Bird's Nest before the Ceremony and experienced firefighters were assigned to patrol the site while the big event was taking place in order to take prompt action if a fire were to break out.

The security of athletes has always

The security personnel receive vehicle control training



been the primary concern of the Olympic Games. To secure the competition, a security force was deployed at every competition venue. Factors such as characteristics of the sport, venue capacity, number of spectators and other considerations were taken into account to develop specific categories with specific measures for each. Contingency plans had been exercised several times and security of the people was given priority whenever an accident occurred.

To cater for the processing of numerous data and statistics of the Beijing Olympic Games, approximately 4,000 technicians and over 20,000 IT suppliers and volunteers had been working hard to ensure that the system would operate smoothly and prevent virus/hacker's attack during the Olympic Games.

Professional medical teams had been organised to take care of the athletes while they were engaged in the

competition.

At 11:48 a.m., August 19, a 58-year-old coach suffered a heart attack in the South African team's locker room located in the Laoshan Velodrome. Since both his respiration and heartbeat had stopped, some believed the coach had died. Medical workers in Laoshan Velodrome promptly came to his rescue and took timely measures to save him.

At 11:55, the coach started taking his first breath and 15 minutes later, he regained normal breathing ability. After a 10-minute observation, the coach was sent to the PLA General Hospital via ambulance.

Nine minutes later, he was in the emergency room where experts were waiting. On arriving at the hospital, he was given a thorough examination. Then, a consultation was held between the experts and an



The Olympic security motorcycles

analysis of his nervous system's cardio-pulmonary function was performed. After a three-hour emergency treatment, the coach regained all his vital signs and was finally out of danger. The next day, he regained consciousness and began to talk to doctors and nurses. The medical team thus won a special competition against Thanatos.

At 10:09 on the morning of August 16, a pregnant woman went into labour at the Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground. Medical workers immediately came to her rescue and helped her with the delivery. Shortly after that, both mother and son were sent to Chaoyang Hospital, where they were given priority to receive a thorough examination. Only when they heard that both mother and son were doing well did the staff at the Chaoyang Park Beach Volleyball Ground feel relieved.

To ensure a safe Olympic Games, BOCOG had chosen 24 hospitals, including Beijing Union Hospital and Beijing Medical Rescue Centre, as the official Olympic Hospitals before the Beijing Games began. 3,289 doctors and nurses had been selected from 84 hospitals to constitute 37 medical teams who would provide medical services at all the venues and the Olympic Village.

To guarantee enough blood would be available in clinics during the course of the Olympic Games, an activity was launched to collect Rh blood in addition to existing blood donations, and nucleic acid testing (NAT) was applied as required by international standards so as to ensure blood quality.

A special supervisory network involving 667 hospitals in Beijing had been set up to monitor people and 22 hospitals in the core space of the Olympic Games around the clock. Any suspicious circumstance would be timely reported and measures would be taken to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases.

As early as one month before the Olympic Games, Olympic medicine had been delivered to the Olympic Village Polyclinic and venue clinics. Referring to relevant statistics from the Athens Games, the Sydney Games and the test events, Beijing Bureau of Drugs Supervision had made an estimation and then stored twice as much medicine than the amount estimated. Athletes, coaches, staff and spectators at the Games had free access to the Olympic medicine.

During the period of the Olympic Games, 917 doping control staff worked at 41 doping control stations at all competition venues and Olympic Villages to carry out the Doping Control Programme. The total number of those tested was 4,770 and a total of 5,300 samples were collected. With athletes' support, the doping control staff had efficiently implemented the most onerous Doping Control Programme in Olympic history.



August 15, 2008 – An athlete who fails to walk due to over fatigue after the women's 800m preliminaries was carried on a stretcher out of the arena





5.3 Tourist Services



The official website of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad contained lots of information in the Spectators section, ranging from scenic spots, accommodation, recommended food, shopping, and leisure, to transport, medical care and weather in Beijing. A variety of tips concerning visa, travelling, communications, consumption and emergency numbers were also available on the official website in Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Arabic, providing all Olympic guests with an extraordinary and unforgettable experience through thoughtful and cheerful service.

Boasting of a number of historical and cultural relics, Beijing has always been an international tourist city. The arrival of Olympic spectators from all around the world would surely be a challenge in terms of tourist traffic.

To cater to the sharply increased demand, two tourist routes had been open since July 20, 2008, of which one would take tourists to the Olympic Green, the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube, while the other to 21 scenic spots including Beijing

South Railway Station, the Yongding Gate, the Temple of Heaven, the Temple of Ancestor Farmers, Dazhulan and Tian'anmen Square. And the residents in the Olympic Village had free access to buses and tour guides to the Great Wall at Badaling, the first choice of tourists from home and abroad.

Apart from the natural and human landscape in Beijing, exhibitions of different themes were staged during the Olympic Games.

"The Chinese Memory – Treasures of the 5000-year Civilisation" and "Fair Play – The Olympic Spirit in Ancient Greece" were held in Capital Museum from late July to early October. Treasures of 55 museums were on show in "The Chinese Memory – Treasures of the 5000-year Civilisation". "Surpassing Heaven's Handicraft – Chinese Cultural Relics of Ancient Invention" was held in the new hall of the China Science and Technology Museum, and "Creation and Selection of Paintings of Ming and Qing Dynasty – United Exhibition on Collections of the Palace Museum and National Arts Museum of China"

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1. In the courtyard of an Olympic household at No.12 Dajinsi Hutong, Beijing

2. A foreigner buys silk fabrics on the Silk Street, Beijing

was staged in the Palace Museum.

The Olympic Expo Beijing 2008, the first-ever Olympic Expo in Olympic history was held in the Beijing Exhibition Centre. The expo collection contains memorabilia like postage stamps, money, pins and works of art from past Olympic Games, including some never-before-seen artifacts from the Olympic Museum in Switzerland and the stamp collections of former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch and the special Olympic-themed coin cast by the Royal Canadian Mint.

"The Olympic Expo Beijing 2008 turned out to be a great success; it will become a regular, official event for future summer and winter Olympic Games to promote Olympic culture," said Urs Lacotte, director general of the IOC at the victory ceremony.

Before the Olympic Games, a total of 598 applicants were selected as "Olympic Homestays", which meant they could accommodate international guests who preferred ancient hutongs to modern hotels.

Zarra, Chris and Linz were three American students. On the morning of their departure, they enjoyed their western breakfast the host had carefully prepared for them. After spending eight days in a siheyuan at No. 12 Dajinsi Hutong near Shichahai in Beijing, they were about to leave for home with scores of pleasant memories of this beautiful siheyuan, its screen wall, moon gate, pomegranate trees and birdcages.

"I feel that I am staying in my other home in Beijing." Linz said, "I've had a great time in this siheyuan. If I am asked to describe my stay in Beijing with one word, that should be proud. I am proud that I've come to China, appreciating Chinese culture and tasting delicious Beijing dishes." Zarra added that they chose to stay in a siheyuan because they wanted to learn more about Chinese culture. Ms Wang, the hostess said that they had fixed up four 12-square-metre bedrooms after being selected as a host family. She and her husband had taken English courses so that they could communicate with their soon-to-arrive international friends.

To bring souvenirs of Chinese characteristics back home is one of the Beijing visitors' assignments. According to a report from Fox News about the shopping wave sweeping Beijing during the Olympic Games, bargaining should be an Olympic sport. After the Opening Ceremony, officials, athletes and spectators rolled into Silk Street Market – a famed shopping paradise in Beijing to participate in this new Olympic sport. Wang Zili, general manager of the market, said that he had received more than 20 heads of state and political VIPs after the Opening Ceremony, and the number of customers kept rising. On August 20 only, 53,028 customers visited the Market. And



Zhongtang Courtyard Hotel – A siheyuan (Quadrangles) themed hotel in Beijing

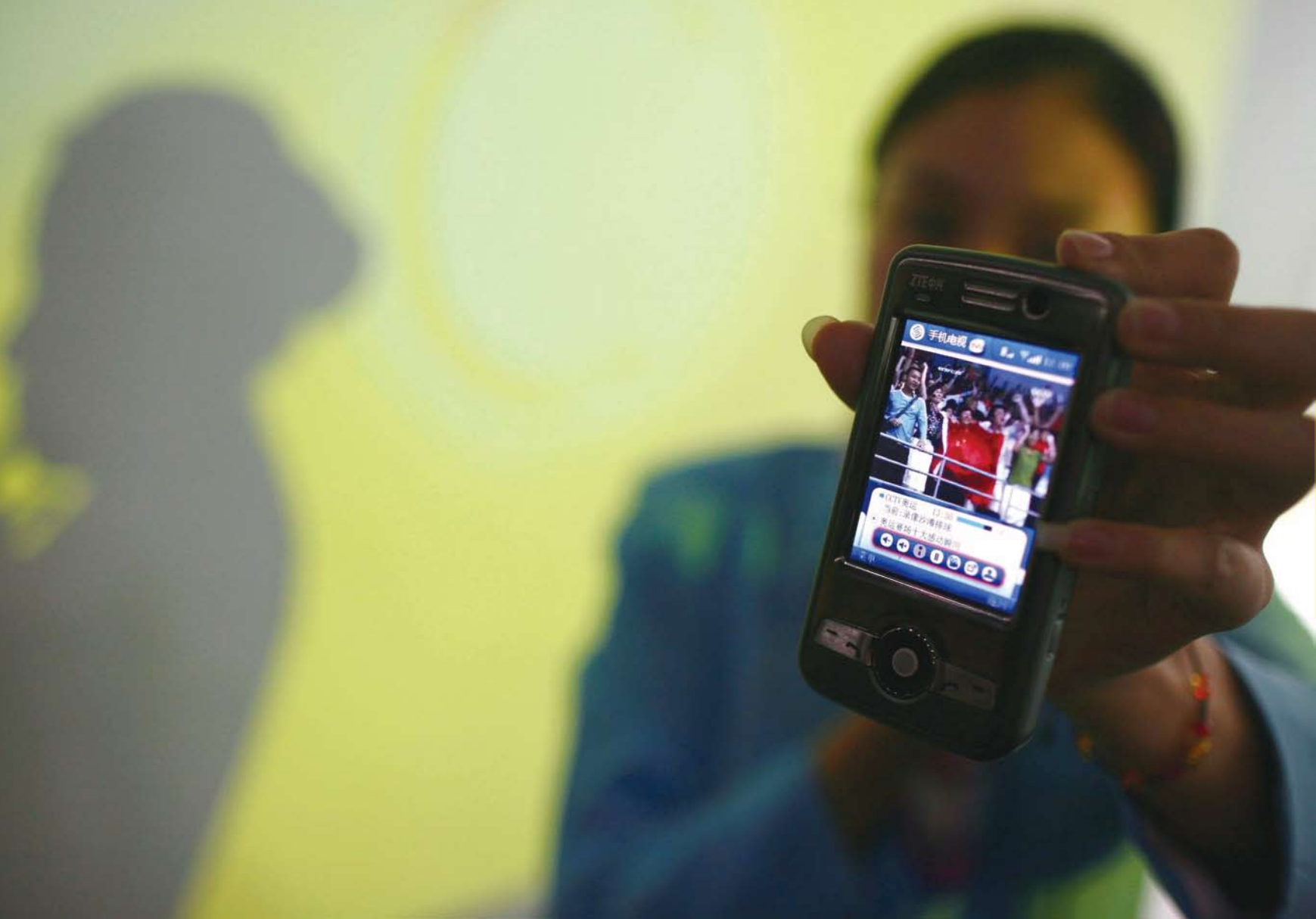


on August 11, the former U.S. President George Bush went shopping in the Silk Street Market with his family and bought seven silk shirts.

Hongqiao Market, opposite to the East Gate of the Temple of Heaven, was another place foreigners frequented. Built in 1995, Hongqiao Market is now one of the biggest pearl trading posts in China. Many heads of state and first ladies came to Hongqiao Market during the Olympic Games. Laura Bush, wife

of President Bush, had been here six times. She even wrote a note on the visitor's book to express her gratitude and good wishes to Hongqiao Market.

Silk, china, paper cuts, kites and tea are always on the top of a foreigner's shopping lists in Beijing. And the four treasures of study, i.e. writing brush, ink stick, ink slab, and paper became more popular after the giant Chinese scroll painting was displayed at the Opening Ceremony.



5.4 Spectator Services



"Welcome to Spectator Services. BOCOG hopes to provide all Olympic guests with an extraordinary and unforgettable experience through thoughtful and cheerful service. Please make the necessary preparations in order to ensure a smooth and enjoyable Olympic experience."

The official website of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games offered details of the schedule for all events, as well as previews, reviews, news, interviews, round-ups, weather summaries and features on athletes. The site was regularly updated keeping spectators informed of all the action. One could download the *Official Spectator Guide* and *Guide to Barrier-free Services*. Information on the site was available in five languages: Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

A ticket entitled a spectator to enter the competition venue. Olympic tickets were hotter than the weather in Beijing, especially the tickets of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. As they were sold via a real name system, these tickets had already been valued by collectors.

Each ticket had a digital chip and a unique serial number, which best featured the tickets of the Opening Ceremony and the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Games and helped identify counterfeits. The serial number and the key had to be matched so that spectators could be admitted to the venues without showing their ID cards, and this saved time in the checkup process as well. BOCOG had employed high-end technology and a resale system to beat ticket touts and forgers profiting from the Games.

Ticket prices for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games were much lower than at previous Games and affordable for most people, considering the income level of Chinese people. According to the ticket policy, 58 per cent of the tickets were priced at or below 100 *yuan* (US\$12.76) and BOCOG had allocated 14 per cent of all tickets at special prices to encourage attendance from Chinese youth. Student tickets were 5 *yuan* (US\$0.64) for preliminaries and 10 *yuan* for finals.

In addition, 50 students from the earthquake-stricken area in Sichuan

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1. China Mobile displays the newly launched 3G Olympic VOD cell phone

2. More than 30 people with visual impairments listen to the live broadcast of the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games at a local network training centre

had been invited to watch the games and appreciate the strength and optimism athletes would show at the Olympics.

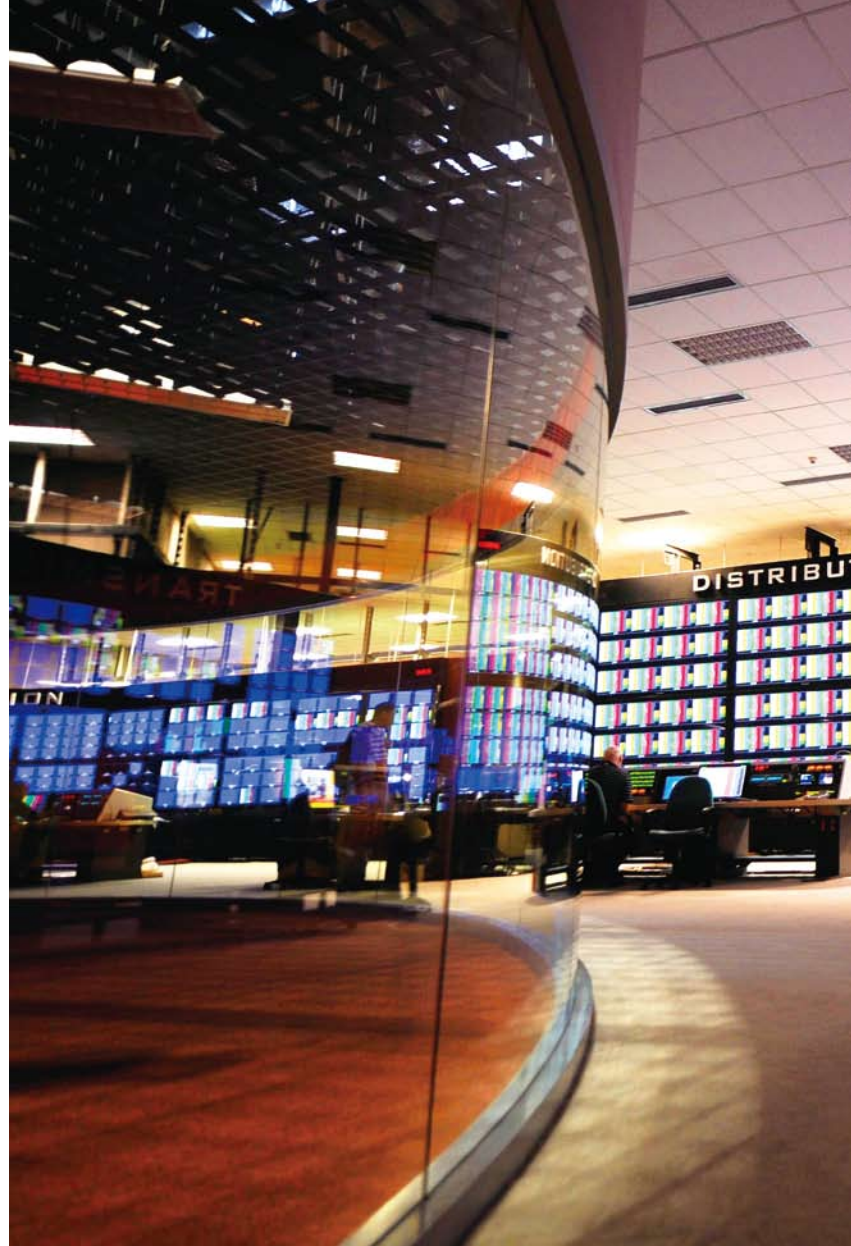
To inform people of the latest Olympic news, approximately 4,000 LED display screens had been installed in public places and over 5,000 mobile TVs were installed in taxis, subway trains, buildings and buses. In addition, 40 large screens had been erected in the Central Business Districts, Xidan, Wangfujing and the Financial Street.

The employment of new technology and services during the Beijing Olympic Games provided television viewers with new options.

For the first time in Olympic history, HD live recording and broadcasting was employed to transmit better images to audiences around the globe. Nearly all the HD live recording and broadcasting equipment in China and most of the HDTV broadcast vans in the world were involved in broadcasting the Beijing Olympic Games as they happened. Beijing Olympic Broadcasting Co., Ltd (BOB), the host broadcaster of the Beijing Olympic Games, had recruited nearly 4,000 staff to work during the Games, and used around 60 outside broadcast vans and 1,000 cameras to produce approximately 4,000 hours of live Olympic coverage.

Mobile TV made its debut during the Beijing Olympic Games. In Beijing, people could enjoy mobile via three ways. One was to receive TV signals from China Mobile Multimedia Broadcasting through a TD-SCDMA TV handset. Another was to watch Digital Audio Broadcasting on a MP4 player or GPS navigator, and still another was to watch Olympic programmes on Mobile BTV by using China Mobile Communications Corp.'s platform.

IOC Television and Marketing Services director Timo Lumme said that the Beijing Olympic Games looked to be the biggest broadcast event in Olympic history with Games coverage provided for viewers in around 200 countries and regions worldwide. There were around 5,000 hours of coverage for the Beijing Games, an unprecedented amount of Olympic sports content available to the IOC's rights holding broadcast partners, located in 200 plus countries and territories around the world. Not to mention, there was a triple increase in the total output of Olympic coverage in comparison



with the Athens Games.

The Beijing Games topped all previous broadcasts of the event in terms of coverage and technology. "The NBC website received 30 times more wow gold video views than it did in Athens, and 12 times more mobile phone downloads than it did for the Torino 2006 Olympic Winter Games," Lumme said.

Online information demands had created record website traffic, on both the IOC's and BOCOG's official websites. There were more visitors to the IOC site in the first week of the Beijing Games than for the entire Athens Games.

BOCOG's official website was also the first Olympic Games website to offer web pages in five different languages, to broadcast all the press conferences held in the Main Press Centre live, and to start their own video talk shows. According to official figures, the number of daily visits to BOCOG's official website during the Games reached 320 million, of which 72 per cent were from abroad, setting a new Olympic record.



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1. The BOB Master Control Room in the International Broadcasting Centre, shot on July 29, 2008, functions as the high-definition TV signal broadcasting centre

2. The Olympic weightlifting competition on the large-screen TV in the Olympic Green



The background is a solid blue color with a large, stylized, light blue map of China overlaid on the left side. The map is semi-transparent and shows the outline of the country. In the upper right corner, there are faint, light blue Olympic rings.

Chapter 6 **Volunteers**

On August 24, 2008, one scene drew special attention at the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games: Four newly elected members of the IOC Athletes' Commission presented bouquets of flowers to 12 volunteer representatives to express sincere thanks to all Beijing Olympic volunteers. The scene was unprecedented in the Olympic Games. The volunteers won the praise of the IOC and the applause of over 90,000 spectators as well.

It was the first time that the unknown volunteers had become the centre of the world's attention and won worldwide acclaim.

Without the dedication of the volunteers, the success of the Beijing Olympic Games would have not been possible. As IOC President Jacques Rogge said at the Beijing Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, "As we bring the Olympic dream to life, special thanks go to the thousands of gracious volunteers, without whom the success of the Games would be impossible."



6.1 Passion for Voluntary Service



The Beijing Olympic Games volunteer recruitment programme was launched from August 2006 through March 31, 2008, and saw 1,125,799 applicants enter their names, among whom, 22,000 were international applicants. In April 2008, BOCOG issued notification letters to 100,000 applicants, which marked the completion of the Games-time volunteer recruitment.

The Beijing Olympic volunteers, with Beijing students comprising a major part, included college students, middle school students, social volunteers, volunteers from other provinces, volunteers from other cities, volunteers from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, foreign students studying in China, international volunteers, and volunteers on special positions.

They provided the Olympic Family, journalists, sponsors, and spectators with a wide range of services in reception, translation, interpretation, transportation, security, medical care, logistics, communications, organisation, venue operations, media operations, cultural events and the Opening and Closing

Ceremonies.

Volunteer recruitment was immediately followed by volunteer training. BOCOG issued training textbooks covering general training, professional training, venue training and job training. Since foreign language proficiency was of great importance, all volunteers received foreign language training to meet the needs of foreigners who would be attending the Olympics.

Apart from Games-time volunteers, city volunteers and social volunteers also made significant contributions to ensure the success of the Games. From July 1 through October 8, 2008, some 400,000 city volunteers in blue-and-white uniforms worked at Beijing volunteer stands and offered outstanding information services, emergency services, and translation services to Olympic Family members, journalists, and tourists from home and abroad.

From August 1 to 26, all 550 city volunteer service stands served the public at least eight hours per day. Some of them, such as those at the National Stadium, the Olympic

The Olympic volunteers swear an oath at worksite

The photograph captures the exterior of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games torch relay booth. A prominent feature is a large white sign with a red heart-shaped logo and the word "Beijing" written below it. Behind the booth, a white tent is visible through a metal fence. In the foreground, a grey railing holds a collection of colorful sticky notes with handwritten messages in Chinese and English. The messages are diverse, expressing support for China and the Olympics, such as "China加油!" (China Go!) and "We love you!".

A photograph showing the Beijing Olympic rings logo on a white sign. In the background, a large crowd of people is gathered behind a metal fence, likely at the entrance to the Olympic stadium. The scene is outdoors, and the atmosphere appears to be one of anticipation and excitement.

A photograph showing the Beijing Olympic rings logo on a white sign. In the background, a large crowd of people is gathered behind a metal fence, likely at the entrance to the Olympic stadium. The scene is outdoors, and the atmosphere appears to be one of anticipation and excitement.







6.2 Dedicated Volunteers



The Beijing Olympic Games witnessed a touching display of voluntary service by millions of volunteers. From the six-year-old who wore the Fuwa mascot suit, to Sun Fangchui, the 86-year-old engineer who served in the National Stadium and Sun Maofang who set up a volunteer service centre, and from local people giving directions, to foreign friends correcting public signs written in English, the volunteers worked their hardest in serving at the Games.

Tian Chunyu, one of the 30 Olympic equestrian volunteers serving at the modern pentathlon competition, was devoted to taking care of the 23 horses for the Olympic Games. As a fan of equestrian events, she had received equestrian training for two years at Beijing Sport University. She, together with other volunteers, cleaned up horse dung, and brushed, washed, walked and fed the horses every day. She even talked to the horses as if they could understand her sweet words.

Sun Youbin worked as an Olympic volunteer for trampoline events. His job was to protect the athletes

from being hurt if they were to fall off the trampoline. Missing all the excitement of enjoying the athletes' marvelous performances, the volunteers seriously focused on the task at hand. Even though all six trampoline volunteers were once athletes or coaches, they received strict training to ensure 100 per cent accuracy in judging the movements of the athletes.

As a volunteer driver, Zhu Qichuan provided foreign guests at the Olympic Games with safe transportation service. He was very careful while driving, always kept the car clean and greeted the guests in English. His quality service won him praise from foreign guests, who would even express their thanks to him in Chinese.

Mei Fanbo, a nurse in the Armed Police Forces General Hospital, was a medical volunteer serving at the Opening Ceremony. When the athletes entered the stadium, three Turkish athletes walked off the racetrack and asked for help. Realising that they were suffering from heatstroke, Mei offered them ice cubes and bottled water to cool

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- 1. The city volunteer service stand laurelled as a "Youth's Star Post" is acclaimed by the local residents
- 2. During the women's softball competition of the Beijing Olympic Games, some volunteers help remove the rain-proof canvas from the field



them down, fanned them and comforted them. With proper treatment, the three athletes soon recovered and presented a Turkish national flag to Mei to express their heartfelt thanks.

As a medical volunteer in the National Aquatics Centre, Sun Zhijun helped save a Japanese athlete, who had fainted in the synchronised swimming event on August 23. Without knowing for sure what had happened, Sun and other medical volunteers took their medical equipment and ran to the lifeguards, who then jumped into the water to save the athlete. According to Zhang Yuehui, the person in charge of medical volunteer service, if an emergency were to occur, the medical staff would take immediate action together with the lifeguards.

When the lifeguards took the athlete from the water, Zhang and other volunteers closely checked her breath, blood pressure, and pulse. They then took the athlete to the hospital. Thanks to their timely treatment, the athlete recovered quickly.

City volunteer Zhang Guangsong, 26, a member of the Hui minority, who once studied in Egypt, was recruited as a volunteer in the Olympic Call Centre. He said that he had always dreamed of serving the country and that volunteering at the Beijing Olympic Games made his dream come true. To serve the Olympic Games, he had turned down a good job offer and encouraged three of his classmates to also volunteer for the Games. From July 1, 2008, when the Call Centre opened, he worked every single day and offered excellent language service.

103-year old Fu Yiquan lived in Xicaoshi community, Beijing. He was famous in the neighbourhood for his warm-heartedness. He often collected trash in the community, and checked whether the neighbours had locked their doors properly. He said that although he was too old to help in the Olympic venues, he would like to help the community so that other people in the community could help out during the Olympic Games.

During the Games, subway played a key role in public transportation. Cao Dongmei was one of the 20,000



subway volunteers who helped domestic and foreign visitors at some of the 123 subway stations in Beijing. On August 8, when the Opening Ceremony was held, the Beijing subway ran for 24 successive hours. Cao and 80 other volunteers served until 2 a.m. August 9 to ease passenger flow. Statistics showed that on that day at the Beitucheng stop, subway volunteers helped 65,260 passengers and directed 35,260 persons, including 5,950 foreign visitors.

Ms. Luk Po-ling, assistant professor in the Department of Journalism & Communication at Hong Kong Shue Yan University, was one of the 1,800 volunteers for the Olympic equestrian competition in Hong Kong. In 2006, she applied to be an Olympic volunteer and in February 2007, she was recruited in the publicity division, which aimed to help Hong Kong people know more about the equestrian events. She served the Games for a total of 500 days. To help Hong Kong people better enjoy the equestrian competition, she participated in many publicity campaigns to disseminate knowledge about the equestrian events, the Olympics and the Paralympics.

In August 2006, Gwacham-Anisiobi Ifeoma Onyinye, a Nigerian student studying Chinese in Beijing Language and Culture University, applied to be a volunteer serving at Beijing Capital International Airport. She said that Beijing Capital International Airport was the place where she

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1. A volunteer holds a direction sign to disperse the spectators at the National Stadium (Bird's Nest)

2. The volunteers distribute the result bulletins in the Main Press Centre of the Beijing Olympic Games



first set foot in China, hoping to help friends from all over the world. From July 30, 2008, she began to offer language service to visitors. Thanks to her proficiency in French and English, she became one of the busiest volunteers and helped visitors by giving directions and showing them how to buy calling cards.

Nicoletta Debendeictis, an Italian volunteer, was an

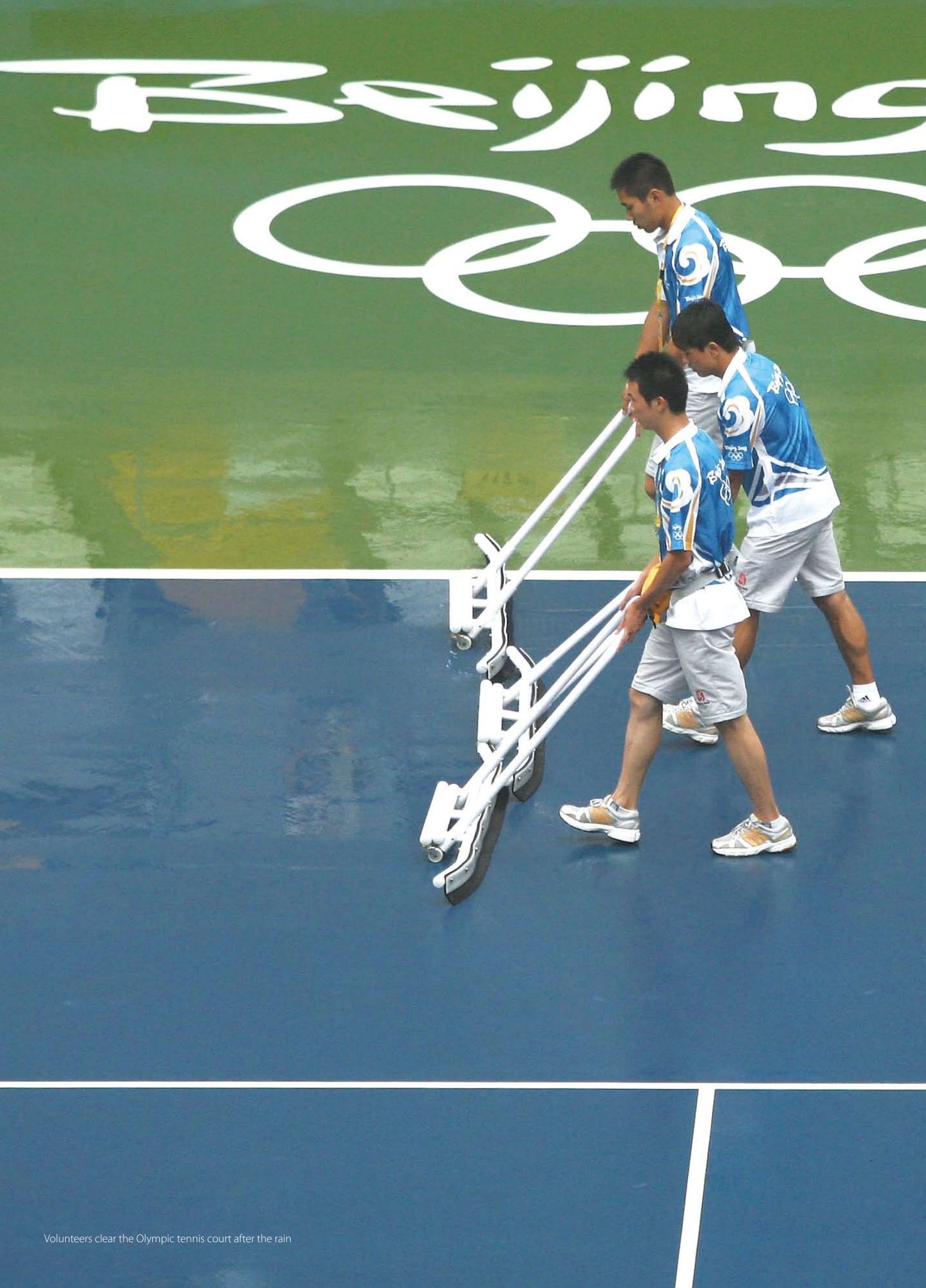
ONS flash quote reporter at Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park. A flash quote reporter is a news service specialist who primarily gathers flash quotes from athletes and coaches and uploads them to BOCOG's website – INFO2008. There were altogether over 900 such reporters serving at the Beijing Olympic Games, including 435 foreign reporters. In Shunyi Olympic Park, 17 foreign flash quote reporters provided their



voluntary services, including 15 Britons and two Italians.

After receiving training from four foreign experts, Nicoletta Debendeictis began her work on July 27, 2008. Since Shunyi Olympic Park was one of the busiest venues, awarding 32 gold medals in four events, the multilingual volunteers performed the heavy tasks of

flash interview and translation. He said that sometimes he even did not realise which language he was speaking, but he was positive saying that he loved this job.



Volunteers clear the Olympic tennis court after the rain

2008





6.3 Volunteer Spirit



The Beijing Olympic volunteers, with their selfless service and sincere smiles, won favourable comments from the world media. The *New York Times* wrote, "It is the legions of volunteers who make the greatest impression, striving to convince us that China longs to be understood. China is, without doubt, a youthful and energetic country." The *Daily Telegraph* also expressed appreciation for the volunteers' enthusiasm and devotion.

On August 7, 2008, the eve of the start of the 2008 Olympic Games, the Beijing Volunteers Association won the UN Distinctive Services Organising Award for its exceptional service at the Olympic Games. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised the Beijing Olympic volunteers, saying that by dedicating their time and talents in the service of others, these Olympic volunteers illustrated the powerful role that volunteers can play.

The virtue of voluntary service at the Games was greatly emphasised from the very beginning. As early as May 4, 2008, when a meeting on Beijing Olympic volunteer work was

held in Beijing Workers' Stadium, Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping said that the Olympic volunteers were the real ambassadors of the Olympic Games, representing the Olympic ideal and spirit and that their dedication to the Olympics was indispensable. He hoped that the Beijing Olympic volunteers would further promote the Olympic ideal, carry forward the volunteer spirit, and embody a peace-loving and energetic China.

Beijing Olympic volunteer Liu Xiangyin, a graduate student of Peking University, wrote Premier Wen Jiabao a letter on May 29, 2008, requesting him to write a few words to the volunteers on the attached commemorative album, which was to be given to the volunteers at the Good Luck Beijing Test Event. Twenty days later, she received a letter, in which Premier Wen wrote to all the volunteers that their sincere service won China dignity and friendship.

In the awards meeting for people who made outstanding contributions to the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games,

Smile Wristlets – The five colours of the wristlets indicate different kinds of human virtues: Red represents the readiness to help others, black honesty and trustworthiness, green environmental protection awareness, yellow civility and politeness, and blue learning and enterprising spirit



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1. September 9, 2008 – Volunteers serve to prepare for the upcoming men's single sculls in Shunyi Olympic Rowing-Canoeing Park
2. A volunteer runs in the Olympic Green Archery Field with arrows in hand
3. City volunteers on duty

Volunteers Symbol of Beijing 2008 – The beaming design of the symbol drew inspiration from Chinese calligraphic art. The shape of heart, composed of interwoven hearts, signifies that volunteers, athletes, the Olympic Family, and all guests would render service and compassion in a joint effort to glorify the Olympic Movement. The dancing human figure stands for volunteers with dedicated spirit.



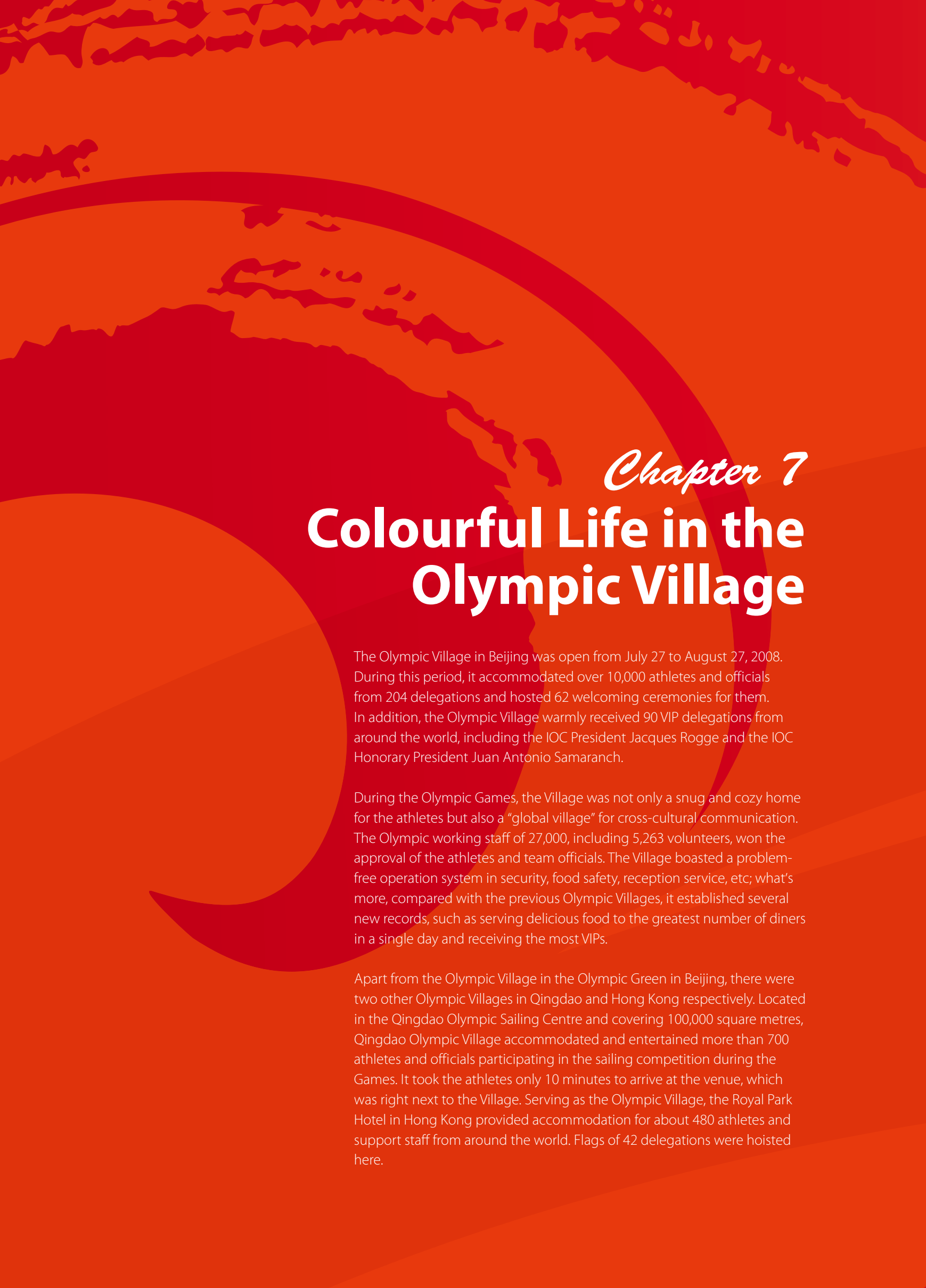
Chinese President Hu Jintao extended his special thanks to the 1.7 million volunteers. He said that the volunteers' enthusiasm and friendliness won China and Chinese youth a favourable reputation. He asked the Chinese people from all walks of life to learn from the volunteers and carry forward voluntary service in developing a harmonious China.

During the Games, volunteers in different uniforms could be seen everywhere in Beijing, performing their duties to serve the people. Their uniforms became the fashion of 2008, as did the Smile Wristlets.

The Beijing Olympic volunteers not only served the public, but also rooted the voluntary spirit among the people, which is even of greater importance to the Chinese nation. Inheriting this great Olympic legacy, Chinese people are more apt to serve and help others.







Chapter 7

Colourful Life in the Olympic Village

The Olympic Village in Beijing was open from July 27 to August 27, 2008. During this period, it accommodated over 10,000 athletes and officials from 204 delegations and hosted 62 welcoming ceremonies for them. In addition, the Olympic Village warmly received 90 VIP delegations from around the world, including the IOC President Jacques Rogge and the IOC Honorary President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

During the Olympic Games, the Village was not only a snug and cozy home for the athletes but also a “global village” for cross-cultural communication. The Olympic working staff of 27,000, including 5,263 volunteers, won the approval of the athletes and team officials. The Village boasted a problem-free operation system in security, food safety, reception service, etc; what's more, compared with the previous Olympic Villages, it established several new records, such as serving delicious food to the greatest number of diners in a single day and receiving the most VIPs.

Apart from the Olympic Village in the Olympic Green in Beijing, there were two other Olympic Villages in Qingdao and Hong Kong respectively. Located in the Qingdao Olympic Sailing Centre and covering 100,000 square metres, Qingdao Olympic Village accommodated and entertained more than 700 athletes and officials participating in the sailing competition during the Games. It took the athletes only 10 minutes to arrive at the venue, which was right next to the Village. Serving as the Olympic Village, the Royal Park Hotel in Hong Kong provided accommodation for about 480 athletes and support staff from around the world. Flags of 42 delegations were hoisted here.



7.1 A Comfortable New Home



Buildings with unique Chinese characteristics, warm hotel service, delicious Chinese cuisine, a well-equipped entertainment centre, plus convenient traffic lines, all of these provided the residents in the Beijing Olympic Village with comfortable living conditions.

Occupying a space area of 66 hectares and located at the northeast corner of the Olympic Green, the Village was adjacent to the Olympic Forest Park in the north and the cluster of Olympic venues in the south. Divided into three sections: Olympic Village Plaza, residential zone and operational zone, it covered an overall floorage of 555,700 square metres. And the residential area comprised 3,276 apartments with 9,993 rooms in 42 buildings. During the Games, it provided over 16,000 beds for athletes, coaches and officials of the various national teams.

Buildings in the residential zone of the Olympic Village featured prominently distinct Chinese characteristics. Every detail embodied the charm of traditional Chinese culture.

The facades of the buildings were covered with grey bricks that are commonly used in Beijing dwellings, while the balconies were decorated with white paint and boards, creating a unique effect of the Chinese Ink Wash Painting.

Different images were used to distinguish the four areas in the residential zone. Rosefinch, a God of ancient legend in Southern China, was engraved on the buildings in Area A. Pixiu, a mythical wild animal repelling devil and bringing about happiness and fortune, was on the buildings in Area B. Double Fish and Dragon were the symbols for Areas C and D.

Moreover, the layout and decoration of these four areas represented different architectural styles of different regions in China. The wooden porch in Area A embodied the classic style of south-western China, the garden-like Area C copied the small bridges and running brooks found in south-eastern China, and Area D next to the Forest Park duplicated the “white mountains and black water” in north-eastern China.

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1. Qingdao Olympic Village
2. Hong Kong Olympic Village



The Cuban delegation visit the Beijing Olympic Village Plaza

Services in the Village were offered to help residents feel at home. For instance, pictures drawn by pupils in Beijing were hung on the wall of each room and athletes were allowed to bring them back home as souvenirs. In addition, winners of the events on arriving back at the Village, would receive a card saying: Congratulations on your excellent performance in the Games!

Twelve service centres, three of which were super resident centres and nine general resident centres, were established in the residential zone of the Olympic Village. Each centre was equipped with a front desk, a resting area, a telephone booth, a TV lounge, a commercial centre, and an ice cream shop. Besides, a conference room, a cyber café and an entertainment bar were included in super resident centres.



day. Specialising in distinct Chinese traditional medicine, the massage service here was warmly welcomed by the foreign residents. Medical experts with the IOC sang high praise of the centre and recommended it to the guests.

There were also places for religious worship in the culture section of the village for residents who came from around the world and who held different religious beliefs. Signs in Chinese, French and English were set up to guide visitors.

Among various services provided in the village, food received the highest recommendations. And the special

There were four well-equipped cyber cafés in the Olympic Village; the largest one was in the Olympic Village Plaza and the other three in the super resident centres. All of these cafés were very comfortable. According to statistics, about 4,000 residents were served every day during the Games.

Various large-scale computer games were available in the entertainment rooms of the Village. Dayron Robles, the champion of 110m hurdles, had frequented here and enjoyed different games including basketball, racing, motorbike and shooting. Kobe Bryant, the NBA superstar, had a great time riding a motorbike in the games room.

The playroom in the Recreation Centre of the Olympic Village, which was open from 5 a.m. to 12 p.m., was one of the most popular sites in the Village. Four air hockey tables, six billiards tables, six football tables, and shuffle-board tables were available here.

Comprehensive sports facilities including a fitness centre, an outdoor swimming pool, a jogging track, four racket courts, a basketball court and a volleyball court were available in the north section of the residential area. And the 1,600-square-metre fitness centre was packed every day.

What the athletes could find in the village was more than just recreational facilities. A polyclinic was established in a three-story building of over 3,200 square metres. Small as it was, the clinic had 17 departments and was equipped with two NMR machines, five ultrasonic sets, a bone densitometre and over 300 electrocardiographs. During the Games, a staff of 543 doctors and nurses who were selected from first-class hospitals in Beijing worked in the clinic, providing athletes with all-round medical service.

The Massage Centre which was part of the Physical Therapy Centre was popular with the residents. Over 2,000 guests were served during the Games and once, more than 340 people enjoyed this service in a single



Chinese cuisine found favour with everyone.

There were four main menus in the dining halls of the Beijing Olympic Village: Asian food, Mediterranean food, international food and Chinese food. Chinese cuisine was so popular with the residents that chefs prepared over 2,000 portions of Shredded Pork with Garlic Sauce and over 700 roast ducks. The 20,000-square-metre main dining hall, which covers more than 20,000 square metres, was open around the clock.

The food service in the Olympic Village encountered many big challenges. Chefs had to prepare 6,000 meals consisting of 450 kinds of food per hour with a weekly menu that contained different dishes on each day. Islamic food and Indian food were also served to the athletes from Islamic countries and India. Ghanem Mohamed, leader of the Egyptian boxing team spoke highly of the food service in the Olympic Village. He said, "The food service in the Village is beyond your imagination. If you have no idea what you want to eat before entering the dining hall, it'll be really hard to decide when you are in the sea of different food of various flavours."

According to statistics, the main dining hall in the Olympic Village prepared 500,000 meals from July 27 to August 24. And on August 8 alone, 30,000 meals were served, the most served on a single day in Olympic history.

Apart from the above-mentioned facilities, an extensive retail area was established in the Olympic Village. Retail outlets included photo shops, telephone booths, travel agencies, cafés, tea houses, newsstands, florists, packing and courier services, banks, ATMs, hair salons, general merchandise stores and grocers.

Due to the large size of the Olympic Village, transportation became another major concern. During the Games, 24 buses and battery-powered people movers were put to use. Transport within the Village operated 24 hours every day, providing two 20-stop loops around the village. There were also buses running from the Olympic Village to every competition as well as training venues. And every day, free tourist buses carried residents from the Village to the Great Wall at Badaling and Tian'anmen Square.

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1. The athlete's apartment in the Olympic Village
2. As the Beijing Olympic Village opens, foreign and Chinese chefs prepare food together
3. The post office in the Beijing Olympic Village Plaza
4. A waitress introduces the Chinese tea culture to the German guests in the Beijing Olympic Village





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1. German athlete Hans Gruhne exchanges the Olympic badges in the Beijing Olympic Village

2. Making the "Princess Fried Rice"

3. Some foreign delegates play billiards in the Beijing Olympic Village

4. Two foreign delegates have a haircut in the Beijing Olympic Village





7.2 An Enjoyable Life



In order to enrich the residents' life, the Village provided its residents with varied and interesting activities as well as first-class facilities.

On the evening of August 7, while he was taking a walk in the Village, Santos, a team official of the delegation from Ecuador, was attracted by delightful music, which was coming from the Beijing Olympic Village's opening entertainment performance. Every day, performances, began at 8 p.m. on the flag mall (except the days of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies) to help athletes ease their tension and regain a cheerful mood.

The performance began with *Dancing Red Silk* – a folk dance composed by the China Railroad Art Troupe, which expressed Chinese people's yearning for the Beijing Olympic Games; the performance also included several original songs by young singers and oral imitation by folk art performers.

During the Games, dozens of art troupes performed at the flag mall in the Olympic Village. On August 15, a group of children performers

presented an enjoyable show of Chinese traditional arts in playing Allegretto, Drum Song of Peking, Drum Song of Hebei and Henan Provinces and monochord. Chosen from the National Children's Folk Arts Competition, the children's ages ranged from 7 to 16. About 7,000 residents enjoyed the children's performance and rewarded them with sustained applause.

Exchanging medals and souvenirs is commonplace for athletes and coaches. Therefore, a souvenir shop made up of exhibition section, environmental protection section and retail section was set up in the Olympic Village Plaza. A variety of commemorative medals of Olympic Games from the Seoul 1988 Olympic Games through the Beijing Olympic Games were hung on the wall of the exhibition section. It was a popular section for athletes who wanted to find medals that corresponded to their particular sport. Medals of the Chinese zodiac and the steel Bird's Nest medal specially designed for the water conservation plan were the most popular in the shop.

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1. The opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Village

2. Olympic souvenirs showcased in the Beijing Olympic Village



Residents' enthusiasm for exchanging medals and souvenirs added a unique feel to the Village. Residents, including officials, athletes, media reporters and volunteers, carried various medals on their ID cards. Once interested in one's medal, they would stop and offered an exchange. Dwight Howard, a member of the U.S. Dream Team VIII, said, "This is fun. It is just like collecting Championship trophies. But we can only exchange medals, not trophies."

The shopping street in the Olympic Village Plaza was another place athletes frequented. Many sports stars came again and again to buy Chinese and Olympic souvenirs.

The residents went to the Souvenir shop more often on their last days in the Village. The shop was always packed with officials and athletes. Pitkamaki Tero, a Finnish javelin thrower, did not know how many times he had been in the shop. He said, "Though my suitcase has already been filled up, I still feel like buying more as I am about to leave. I'm thinking about sending some back by mail." And this time, he bought cups bearing

the Emblem of the Beijing Olympic Games, silk ties and several T-shirts.

According to the shop manager, the sales could easily exceed RMB one million during the peak days and that his stock needed to be replenished every day.

For residents who preferred relaxation to shopping, a variety of cultural activities were available in the Olympic Village Plaza. They could take Chinese language classes, or classes about tea art or traditional Chinese handicrafts.

In the Chinese classroom, three teachers taught students to paint brush characters every day. And residents could also learn to play gu zheng (a Chinese zither) or Chinese chess. Aisa Emily, an official of the Cote d'Ivoire delegation, made a reservation for a month course right after her first class. Every student was given a Chinese name according to their sport and interests. Gutta, a swimmer of the Moldova delegation, was quite interested in the Chinese name on a Brazilian athlete's arm and wanted to have one of his own. His



Chinese name was Gu Aotong (谷奥同), after “同一个奥运, 同一个梦想”(One World One Dream) . Anyani, an athlete from Samoa, was fascinated to learn how to paint brush characters. Though it took the teacher some time to correct her way of writing, the following study went well. She could write her Chinese name shortly after she started practising. Anyani said that she was quite interested in Chinese culture and history, so she decided that she would continue learning Chinese after the Olympic Games.

The Olympic Village also provided a free Chinese course. *The Olympics in 30 Chinese Sentences* was the textbook used in the course. Francis, an Australian weightlifter, spent one hour learning every time he came. He insisted being called “Guo Fu’an” instead of Francis. Guo Fu’an was known for his diligence. He said he felt quite at home in the Olympic Village. Whenever he had questions, volunteers and residents offered help.

Naoya Yanagiya, a Japanese official, also took Chinese course in the Village. While in class, he was totally

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1. Ha Yiqi, a folk artist in Beijing, makes a kite in the Folklore Area of the Olympic Village Plaza
2. An athlete from Sudan (Right) has her nails done in the Commercial and Culture Street in the Beijing Olympic Village

oblivious of the people around him, engrossing himself in practising pronunciation. Naoya said that he had followed a broadcast Chinese course for a year. So the teacher helped him correct his pronunciation.

Naoya came to Chinese class every day after moving into the Olympic Village, though sometimes he could only stay for 15 minutes because he had to attend a meeting. His teacher commented that he was very serious in that he always came to class on time and took a lot of notes.

The Tea Room also found favour with residents who loved Chinese tea culture. Sitting in a room equipped with traditional Chinese furniture, athletes could read the introduction to Chinese tea culture while enjoying their tea. In the evening, they could also watch tea-making performances. A cup of fragrant tea plus tea culture, these two ingredients helped the athletes relax and recharge.

A whole range of traditional Chinese folk art crafts had been presented to guests from all round the world in the Olympic Village Plaza. Folk arts such as paper-cuts, dough models, clay sculptures, new-year pictures, paper kites, shadow figures, cloth art and embroidery were presented by 25 Chinese folk artists.

Residents of the Village sang high praise of the pleasant atmosphere, advanced facilities, colourful activities and sweet service provided by the Beijing Olympic Village. They had a great time in the Olympic Village. The deputy head of the Kazakhstan delegation said, "Everything in the Olympic Village is perfect. We have nothing to complain about during our stay here." And Koji Ueno, the coach of Japanese swimming team, found the environment in the Village the best in Olympic history and the food quite impressive.

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1. Foreign athletes at the Olympic Badges Exchange Centre

2. German athlete Jooss Anette Verena shows off her Chinese name in the Chinese Learning Area of the Beijing Olympic Village

3. Performance to highlight the opening of the Olympic Village, drawing curtain for the cultural activities of the Olympic Village

4. Swiss tennis star Roger Federer in the Olympic Souvenir Store in the Beijing Olympic Village

5. The Book-and-Newspaper Hall in the Olympic Village Plaza









Chapter 8

Olympic Education

The Olympic Games like Greek philosophy and Greek drama, fully embodies the humanistic spirit typical of ancient Greece, the country of its birth. The development of the modern Olympic Games brings all the nations together, which further enriches the Olympic Movement with new meanings. The Olympic Movement, with sports as its medium, and Olympic education as its core value, has become one of the most influential global and multi-cultural events.

In the late 19th century, French educator, Pierre de Coubertin after practising sports for years, was convinced that sport was the springboard for moral energy and social development. Since then, the intellectual and cultural nature of the Olympics has been greatly valued.





8.1 Olympic Culture



The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, extending far beyond a sporting event, was a magnificent cultural event, in which diverse cultural activities were staged. The Olympic Cultural Festival held once a year from 2003 through 2008 introduced the ancient flavour and modern charm of Beijing and China to the world and set a festive and harmonious backdrop for the Games.

The yearly Olympic Cultural Festival was held from June 23, International Olympic Day, to July 13, anniversary of Beijing’s successful Olympic bid, in Beijing and the six co-host cities (Qingdao, Hong Kong, Qinhuangdao, Shenyang, Tianjin and Shanghai). The rich cultural events in the festival best interpreted “People’s Olympics”, one of the three concepts of the Beijing Olympic Games.

On July 15, 2007, the Fifth “Beijing 2008” Olympic Cultural Festival drew to a close with a performance on the theme of “welcome the Olympics, promote civility, and create a favourable social atmosphere”. The gala brought together pop stars and

artists, including Chyi Chin, Yu Quan, and Guo Feng, who expressed their passions for the Olympic Games with melodious songs, and Feng Gong, who performed a cross talk to promote politeness.

The Olympi Games Cultural Festival, integrating sport with culture, staged more than 70 cultural events related to the Olympics. For instance, during the Fifth Olympic Cultural Festival, 20 Olympic-themed open-air concerts and the 13th World Olympic Collectors Fair were held, as was the Third Beijing International Sport Film Festival. Thanks to the film festival, millions of people in Beijing enjoyed more than 30 sport films from 10 countries at seven cinemas or in 1,500 communities with 315 digitalised movie projectors.

After Beijing was awarded the 2008 Olympic Games in 2001, the Olympic Cultural Square Programme kicked off, aiming to involve more Beijing citizens in the Olympics. Colourful and diverse cultural activities were arranged in 26 Olympic Cultural Squares in the city, among which 19 staged most

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1. June 5, 2006 – An itinerant exhibition on animal protection titled “Joining Hands with Fuwa to Embrace Nature” kicked off in Beijing Natural History Museum
2. July 8, 2006 – A sports show by farmers of suburban Beijing as part of the fourth “Beijing 2008” Olympic Cultural Festival





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1. June 23, 2008 – The Thousand Hands Kwan-yin dance to highlight the opening of the Sixth “Beijing 2008” Olympic Cultural Festival

2. June 23, 2008 – Brilliant performances to highlight the opening of the Sixth “Beijing 2008” Olympic Cultural Festival



of the activities.

During the Games, the Olympic Cultural Square Programme reached a climax by staging traditional Chinese performances, like lion dancing and lantern shows, and other splendid performances by both domestic and international professional troupes, dance teams and choruses from China's urban and rural communities. Statistics showed that from July 13 to August 14, the Olympic Cultural Squares received 1,462,600 tourists. A record was broken on August 8, 2008, when 73 performances were staged, attracting 131,000 tourists. On August 17, Yang Ling, shooting champion in the Games of the XXVI and the XXVII Olympiad, attended the performance at the Olympic Square in Chaoyang District, inspiring people's passion for sports, and Olympic torchbearer and famous

Chinese actress Zhao Wei sang an Olympic song to express her love for the Olympics. To offer the tourists a superb Olympic experience, special events, like Badminton Night and Basketball Night, were held at the Olympic Cultural Squares concurrently with the Olympic competition. Some Squares broadcast the Olympic Games on big screens, attracting a large number of local people and tourists.

Promotion of mass sports was also indispensable for a successful Olympic Games. Districts and counties of Beijing organised a great variety of mass sporting events during the Olympic preparation. Miyun County, for instance, put its Mass Sports Square into use in July 2007 and held a 20-day Sixth Sports Festival, involving the local people in the competitions of table tennis, badminton, chess, Yangge dancing, basketball, martial arts, taekwondo, and fishing. Apart from the



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1. Evening, June 23, 2005 – An open-air concert titled “the Olympic Beat” was staged at the China Millennium Monument to highlight the opening of the Third “Beijing 2008” Olympic Cultural Festival

2. The “Beijing Olympic Culture Wall” created on the campus wall of Beijing Institute of Technology

competitions, physical examinations, lectures on sports, and photography shows on mass sports and the Olympics were also held to promote physical fitness and welcome the Olympic Games.

BOCOG’s request for Olympic songs, a proven practice in the previous Games, was of great importance, involving people in the Olympic Games. From April 15, 2003 through March 11, 2008, over 3,000 pieces of music and 70,000 lyrics had reached the organisers of the soliciting campaign. The responders included both ordinary citizens and professional composers and songwriters, such as Italian composer Giorgio Moroder, Chinese musician Tan Dun, Chinese musician Kong Xiangdong, American songwriter Frank Myers, and German songwriter Michael Kunz.

Each key stage of Olympic preparation witnessed the emergence of new Olympic songs. “Beijing welcomes you”, sung by a hundred singers, was released as the theme song for the 100-day countdown to the Games, and swept all of China in a short time. Just as popular was “We are ready”, the theme song for the one-year countdown to the Games.

During the Beijing Olympic Games, museums and exhibition centres in Beijing hosted many exhibitions related to sports. Being the first-ever Olympic expo, the 11-day Beijing 2008 Olympic Expo displayed numerous Olympic treasures and art pieces, receiving over 80,000 visitors. Among the many activities in the expo was Culture Day, which showcased Chinese history and the Olympic culture. The most admired art piece on Culture Day was the 32 sculptures of 32

Olympic sporting events made by a Spanish sculptor.

The Olympic Expo's origin can be traced back to the IOC Olympic Treasure Exhibition China Tour 2007, the first Olympic exhibition outside Europe. The exhibition tour started in Beijing on August 8, 2007 and toured 14 cities in China, receiving more than two million adults and youths. As the largest and most influential exhibition, it spread Olympic ideals and disseminated Olympic knowledge among the Chinese people, especially the youth.





The torches of all the previous Olympic Games showcased



8.2 Olympic Education



The spirit of competitive sports and fair play inherent to the Olympic Games are tremendously educational for youth.

The official website of the Beijing Olympic Games offered a special module on online Olympic training, with an aim of promoting Olympic education among students. All web users enjoyed easy access to Olympic readings for primary school students, middle school students, college students, volunteers, 11 Olympic education wall charts for primary school students, and 11 wall charts for middle school students. Speeches by BOCOG officials were also available online, including He Zhenliang's speech on "China and the Olympic Movement" and Liu Jingmin's speech on "Beijing's Olympic Preparation Efforts".

Upon being awarded the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, BOCOG together with the Chinese Ministry of Education, publicised its Beijing 2008 Primary and Middle School Olympic Education Plan, aiming to choose Olympic Education Model Schools to take leading roles in promoting Olympic education.

The 556 Olympic Education Model Schools throughout China took the initiative to disseminate the Olympic knowledge. Yangfangdian Central Primary School, Beijing, for instance, held a mini Olympic Games every year, energising the students through sports. Jingshan School, Beijing offered a selective course on Olympic knowledge. Guangqumen Middle School, Beijing, was creative in having physical education every day, which was instrumental in the reform of physical education curriculum.

Mini BOCOG was another creative effort by the students. Set up by the students of Huajiadi Primary School, Beijing, it offered the students a first-hand experience of the Olympics.

In mimicking the IOC practice, 74 students won the vote after election speeches and worked under eight departments of the mini BOCOG. Upon its establishment, it assumed responsibility of advancing Olympic education in the school through various activities. Mini BOCOG not only spread Olympic knowledge, but also fostered the students' sense of responsibility and overall ability.

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1. May 25, 2007 – Students from a primary school of Beijing and their counterparts from Hebei Province who have joined hands for Olympic education for eight years co-hosted an Olympic knowledge contest

2. March 8, 2007 – Chinese and Canadian students met for an exchange activity featuring 2008 Olympic education organised by Chen Jinglun High School, Beijing and the Canadian Olympic Committee



200 Beijing-area Olympic Education Model Schools played a leading role in promoting Olympic education in Beijing, as did the 556 Model Schools in all of China. It was proven that the Olympic Model School Programme made vital contributions to Olympic education among Chinese youth.

The Heart-to-Heart Partnership Programme was part of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Educational Programme. Based on the education programmes of the previous host cities, BOCOG and the Beijing Municipal

Education Commission jointly launched the Heart-to-Heart Partnership Programme on December 17, 2006, the 600-day countdown to the Games. More than 200 primary and middle schools in Beijing were partnered with 205 National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of the Olympic Family. Before the Games, BOCOG had assisted schools in contacting their partner NOCs and each partner school in Beijing was introduced to its corresponding school by its partner NOC. The students, after learning the language, history and culture of the partner countries, thus began school-to-school



December 9, 2007 – A simulated Olympic Games and a victory ceremony in Beijing aiming to spread the Olympic spirit and concepts among children and their parents

communication by carrying out a series of activities.

During the Games, the Heart-to-Heart partner schools in Beijing greeted their partner NOC delegations in the Team Welcome Ceremony at the Olympic Village and supported the athletes at the competition sessions. Additionally, the corresponding delegations were invited to visit the schools in Beijing.

The Heart-to-Heart Partnership Programme was designed to promote the Olympic spirit, deepen mutual understanding and strengthen friendship between students in China and students across the world. Heart-to-Heart Partnership fully conveyed its namesake as well as the hope of sharing the Olympic dream.

Prior to the Games, BOCOG had organised many school-to-school communications among the partner schools. During Good Luck Beijing Test Events in

2007, Beijing hosted a Heart-to-Heart Partnership Summer Camp in Beijing No. 80 Middle School. Over 300 students and teachers from partner schools in 17 countries and regions gathered together and had a wonderful time. In the four-day summer camp, the campers experienced Chinese culture and customs, participated in Olympic sports and made friends with each other. The friendship found was best expressed in their handshakes on the Great Wall and farewell tears. The summer camp was a precious memory for all the campers.

On August 18, 2008, Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov visited Beijing No.14 Branch Middle School and participated in the Olympic-themed communication activity between a Bulgarian school and No.14 Branch Middle School. After touring the school's Olympic corridor, library, reading room, and laboratory, he enjoyed a martial arts and diabolo performance put on by the students. The President was also impressed with the choir's rendition of Chinese folk songs, the Chinese zither and the face-changing performance.

An Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) official paid two visits to Beijing No.4 Middle School, the partner school of an Athens academy. During his second visit on April 4, 2008, he expressed his appreciation for BOCOG's efforts in building up friendship between the Chinese and Greek students through the Heart-to-Heart Partnership Programme.



8.3 Olympic Youth Camp (OYC)



August 6, 2008 witnessed the opening of the Beijing Olympic Youth Camp (OYC) in Beijing No. 101 Middle School. The 12-day youth camp, concurrent with the Beijing Olympic Games, offered 497 campers from more than 200 countries an opportunity to experience the Olympic Games, communicate with each other and learn more about China.

Olympic Youth Camps date back to the Stockholm 1912 Olympic Games, when King Gustav V of Sweden invited 1,500 Boy Scouts to pitch their tents near the Olympic Stadium and celebrate the Games. According to the *Olympic Charter*, "With the authorisation of the IOC Executive Board, the OCOG may, under its own responsibility, organise an international youth camp on the occasion of the Olympic Games." The two World Wars interrupted the OYC, but since the Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games, when the OYC resumed, almost every Olympic Games has hosted an OYC.

Now the OYC is an integral and special part of the Olympic Games

with the goal of promoting the Olympic spirit and providing a unique Olympic experience for young people. It showcases the culture, history and customs of the host city and country; and fosters cultural exchange and friendship among young people around the world.

On the opening day of the youth camp, a Chinese camper named Li Shun, a college student with a visual impairment, performed Tianjin allegro beside the postal card wall made by the campers. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to attend the youth camp. Though we speak different languages, we can communicate with smiles," said Li.

The theme slogan of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Youth Camp was "Youth creates the future of the world", underlying the impact of young people's innovative spirit on a better world in the future. Over 400 campers representing more than 200 countries and regions attended the Games' Opening and Closing Ceremonies and sports events, and some of them took part in the Olympic Torch Relay and

The opening ceremony of the Olympic Youth Camp

visited the Olympic Village.

Some campers were promising athletes. A French teenage judo athlete, who was to compete in the London 2012 Olympic Games, was impressed with the splendour of the Bird's Nest and the Beijing Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. A 16-year-old archery athlete from Indonesia was also amazed at the Opening Ceremony and rated the Beijing Olympic Games as excellent.

The youth camp gave the participants a first-hand experience of the Chinese culture. The campers, each having a Chinese name, were organised into 12 teams under the names of twelve Chinese hours. Aside from sightseeing in Beijing, they learned martial arts, Taiji, diabolo, calligraphy, and badminton as well as participating in workshops on traditional Chinese culture, including folk arts and crafts.

A 14-year-old girl from the Republic of Nauru said

that her family felt very blessed to have her come to Beijing as an Olympic youth camper. A 14-year-old boy from Kuwait was reserved at first, yet after an hour of orientation training, he became very active in his team. He said that he felt good completing tasks with the help of other teammates. Orientation training was specially designed in the OYC to cultivate team spirit.

Through the OYC, the youths, representing diverse cultures, made close friends with one another. On August 17, the closing day of the youth camp, all the campers were presented with Beijing 2008 Olympic Youth Camp Certificates signed by BOCOG President and Youth Camp President Liu Qi. At the farewell party, BOCOG officials expressed to all the OYC participants their hope for eternal friendship and world peace.

During the closing ceremony, the campers showed their love for Beijing in their own ways. A Canadian camper wore a Chinese Cheongsam to take photos with friends, while a Romanian camper wrote Chinese





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1. A member of the Youth Camp is painted with her face as Sun Wukong (Monkey King) in Peking Opera
2. Marina from Romania asks the members of the Youth Camp to sign their names on the paper which bears her Chinese name
3. At the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Youth Camp, Chinese members perform Kuaiban (Clapper Talks) to welcome members of the Youth Camp from different countries
4. Youth Camp members from different countries jump high to bid farewell to each other

calligraphy in honour of the OYC.

Cultural diversity is the very essence and asset of the Olympics. The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games set up an ideal platform for multi-cultural communication, enhanced mutual understanding, built up friendship and promoted peace.

The Chinese government's efforts in disseminating the spirit and ideals inherent to the Olympics among the 400 million Chinese youths proved to be significant

and fruitful. The nationwide Olympic education system and the spread of Olympic values will surely have a far-reaching impact. Chinese President Hu Jintao commented that the Beijing Olympic Games left invaluable Olympic legacies by carrying forward the Olympic spirit of solidarity, friendship and peace and facilitating sincere exchanges among people from all countries.



Chapter 9

The Olympic Legacy

The Games of the XXIX Olympiad was concluded in the National Stadium on August 24, 2008. The 17-day gala was a showcase of Beijing's development and an arena for cultural exchange.

The Games, which will be cherished in pleasant memories, left valuable legacies to inspire the Chinese people for generations to come.



9.1 The Closing Ceremony



August 24, 2008 witnessed the holy Olympic flame extinguished at the National Stadium after burning for 16 glorious days. Beijing staged an unforgettable Closing Ceremony of the Games as a farewell to the Olympians and all the guests.

Prelude

Splendid fireworks lit up the National Stadium. The countdown to the Closing Ceremony started when fireworks formed the number “29”, indicating the Games of the XXIX Olympiad. From “29” to “11”, highlights of this Olympic Games were shown with countdown numbers on the screen. Accompanied with live sound track, the atmosphere reached its first climax.

Fireworks on top of the National Stadium immediately burst in the air when the countdown ended, forming a great circle in the sky which symbolised the completion and success of the Beijing Olympic Games.

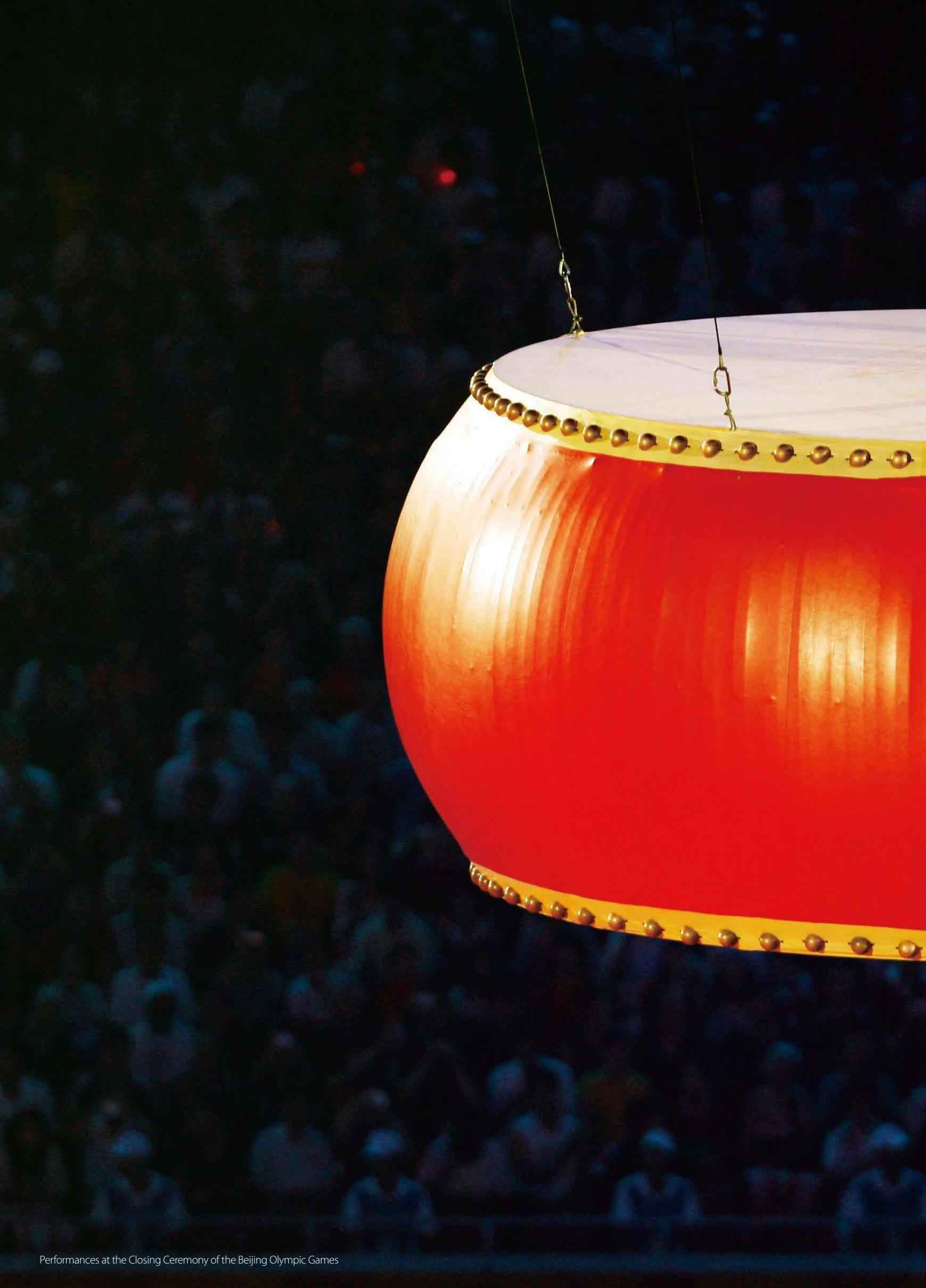
Chapter I Reunion

Two hundred drummers lined up in a circle on the steps of the Main Stage, danced and beat their drums while looking up at the sky. Indicating the commencement of the ceremony, the drumbeat called people with the same Olympic dreams and passion to gather together.

Then, two large heavenly drums flew from the north and south of the stadium. The performers beat the heavenly drums in a unique style under magical light. The two heavenly drums met at the centre above the stadium, slowly descending to the Main Stage until they were suspended about five metres above the stage.

Summoned by the drumbeat, 1,148 dancers wearing silver bells gathered around the main stage, and sang and danced to greet the heavenly drums. Eight drum carts of different shapes entered the stadium, carrying joyous performers. Then four festive passages made by

Fireworks and performances at the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games which kicks off in the National Stadium (Bird's Nest)





the performers and eight carts were formed to greet the distinguished guests.

Flags of all 204 delegations entered the stadium, followed by the athletes. According to IOC practice, at the Closing Ceremony, all athletes would enter the venue without differentiation of nationality. Tonight, the athletes entered the stadium, hand in hand, wearing sweet smiles, which touched all in attendance.

After receiving all the athletes, the National Stadium saw the Marathon Victory Ceremony, where IOC President Jacques Rogge awarded the medals to the winners. They were Kenya's Samuel Kamau Wansiru, gold medalist, who set a new Olympic record with a time of 2hr 6min 32sec, Jaouad Gharib of Morocco, silver medalist, and Tsegay Kebede of Ethiopia, bronze medalist.

Following the victory ceremony, twelve representatives of the Beijing Olympic volunteers entered the stadium and were presented with bouquets of flowers by the four newly elected members of the IOC Athletes' Commission. All spectators gave warm applause to the volunteers in recognition of their quality service at the Games.

BOCOG President Liu Qi had this to say at the Closing Ceremony, "The Olympic flame atop the National Stadium will soon be extinguished, and yet Chinese people's enthusiasm in embracing the world will be ablaze forever. At this moment, we hope you will bear in mind the vigour and vitality of Beijing and the co-host cities, bear in mind the Chinese people, who are deeply faithful to the Olympic Movement, and also bear in mind the smiles and dedication of the volunteers."

IOC President Jacques Rogge also delivered a speech at the Closing Ceremony. He extended sincere thanks

"to the people of China, all the wonderful volunteers and BOCOG". He rated the Beijing Olympic Games as "truly exceptional Games".

Then the UK National Flag was raised, accompanied by the UK national anthem. After the lowering of the Olympic flag, Guo Jinlong, Mayor of Beijing, handed the flag to the IOC President, who then handed it to Boris Johnson, Mayor of London.

A Red double-decker bus, a symbol of London, entered the stadium. With the opening of the bus roof, legendary Led Zeppelin, rock guitarist Jimmy Page and new international singing sensation, Leona Lewis appeared. With an eight-minute performance, they, together with the top British dancers, demonstrated a creative, energetic, and passionate London. Then, global football hero, David Beckham kicked a football to symbolise the start of London's Olympic journey.

Chapter II Memory

Enhanced by special-effect lights, the boarding ladder truck with the logo of the Beijing Olympic Games was slowly elevated. An athlete about to leave walked up the boarding ladder. He slowly took out an exquisitely





painted scroll and unfolded it. On the scroll were the dear memories of the 16 glorious days of the Games.

He then slowly folded the painted scroll. At the same time, the sacred flame of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games was slowly extinguished.

Then, a huge “memory tower” appeared and lighted in the centre of the stadium. Dancers climbed the tower and formed the images of flowers and fireworks. With passionate music, 16 lucky cloud yarn strips slowly rose along the “memory tower” on the main stage. The top ends of the lucky cloud yarn strips extended towards the sky and

August 13, 2008 – IOC President Jacques Rogge watched women’s weightlifting 69kg finals of the Beijing Olympic Games in the Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics Gymnasium



transformed into a lucky cloud tree, symbolising friendship and joy.

Chapter III Carnival

Then the carnival began.

The singers sang “Beijing, Beijing, I Love Beijing” to express the visitors’ love of Beijing, while pop stars came together to sing “Please Stay, Guests from Afar” to express reluctance in having to part with foreign friends. The celebration culminated in an emotional duet performance of “The Flame of Love” by Spanish tenor Placido Domingo and Chinese singer Song Zuying.

The singers, athletes and spectators alike were all immersed in the festive and joyous atmosphere. People danced and sang to the music. This was a grand carnival of mankind.

Then, innumerable dazzling fireworks were displayed from the top of the “bowl rim” which put an end to the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games.

The Games were over, yet the memory of “One World, One Dream” would remain forever.

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1. U.S. athlete Andra Manson has a photo taken with the performers at the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games

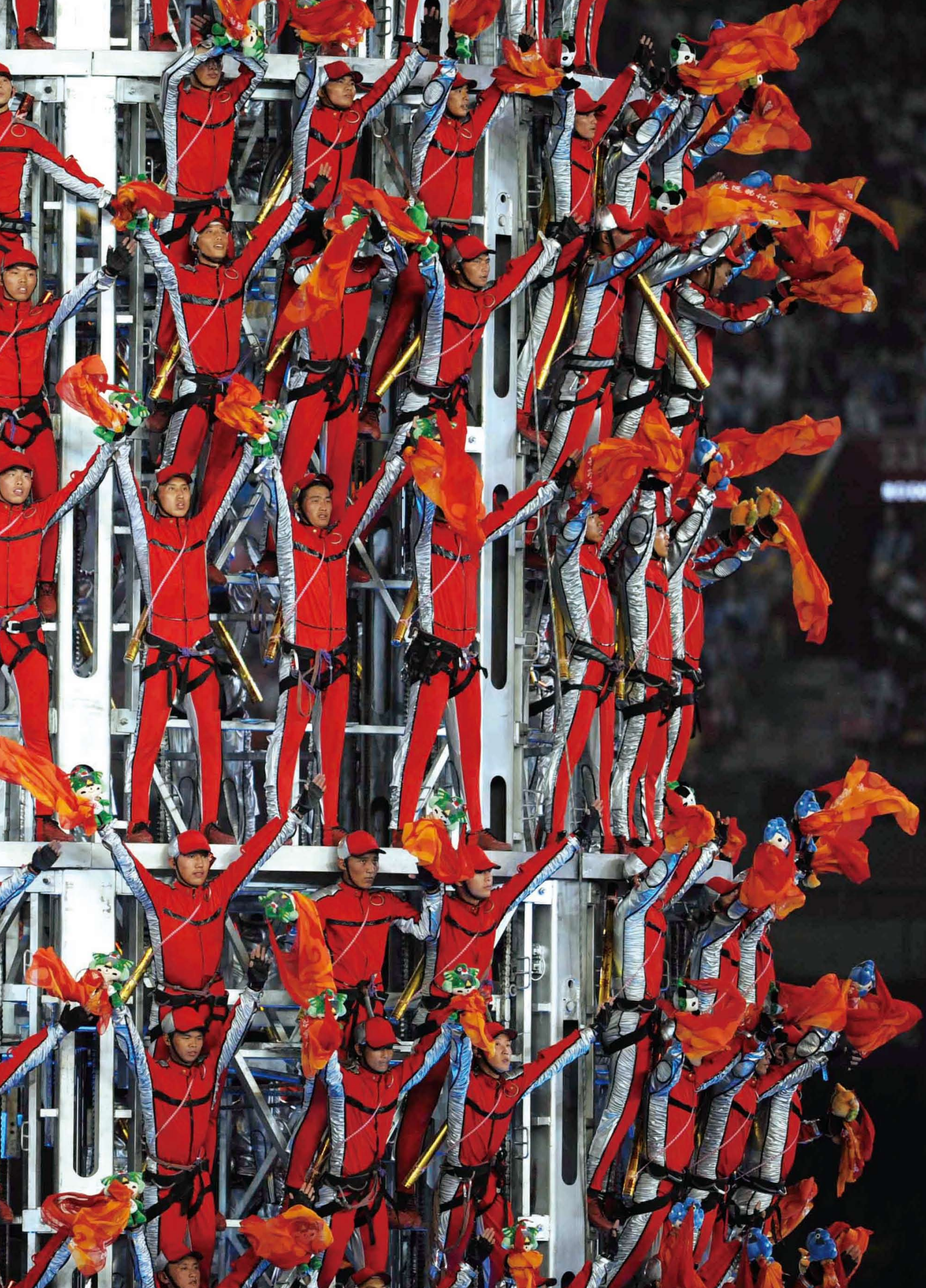
2. After the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games, Zhao Ruirui (Second Right) of the Chinese women’s volleyball team, has a photo taken with the Cook Islands delegation

3. The Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games kicks off ceremoniously in the National Stadium (Bird’s Nest)





Brilliant performance at the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games





9.2 The Fascination of Sport



With the extinguishing of the Beijing Olympic flame, the Games of the XXIX Olympiad drew to a close. During the 16 days, Beijing staged the grand Olympic Games and witnessed people's passion for the Olympics. The Beijing Olympic Games saw the most participation in Olympic history, attended by over 10,000 athletes from 204 countries and regions and attracted billions of spectators.

Sport inspires people's love of and passion for life. The Olympics brought the whole world together to share the charm of sports in Beijing.

The Beijing Olympic Games saw 38 new world records and 85 new Olympic records. It awarded athletes from 55 countries and regions 302 gold medals, the largest number of gold medals awarded in Olympic history. Athletes from 87 countries and regions were awarded Olympic medals, including 12 countries winning their first-ever Olympic medal. The Games witnessed many breakthroughs. Jamaican Usain Bolt, for instance, set a phenomenal world record of 9.69sec in the

100m dash and American athlete Michael Phelps became the all-time winningest Olympian by pocketing a total of eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympic Games.

The Beijing Olympic Games involved more countries compared to the previous Games. It was the first time for the Republic of Montenegro, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands to send athletes to compete in the Olympic Games. And many countries and regions won their first-ever Olympic medal, such as the Republic of Togo, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Afghanistan and Sudan, while some won their first-ever Olympic gold medal, such as Bahrain, Mongolia, Azerbaijan and Panama.

To honour the promise of hosting a high-level Olympic Games with distinguishing features, with the generous support from the IOC, IFs and NOCs, the 1.3 billion Chinese people made strenuous efforts to ensure the success of this grand event. BOCOG's exceptional organisation, staff's commitment and volunteers' quality service won worldwide acclaim.

Canadian athletes celebrate at the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games

Fireworks in the shape of the Olympic rings set off over the National Stadium to highlight the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games







"London's eight-minute performance" at the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said that seven years ago people hardly believed that China could host such excellent Games and now China's success would encourage Brazil in its bid to host the 2016 Olympic Games. Croatian President Stjepan Mesic was also impressed with the success of the Beijing Olympic Games, which to him, was the grandest Games in Olympic history.

The Beijing Olympic Games also won favour from the world media. Reuters commented that the Games showcased a modern dynamic China and its achievements in competitive sports. The Associated Press rated the operation of the Games as excellent and China's sports achievements as extraordinary. And a front-page article in *The Independent* claimed that the Beijing Olympic Games was by far the greatest

Games.

On November 24, 2008, an IOC summing-up meeting on the Beijing Olympic Games was held in London, where IOC President Jacques Rogge expressed his appreciation for the "truly exceptional" Beijing Olympic Games and said that they were a milestone in the development of the international Olympic Movement and left a great legacy for Beijing and all of China.

9.3 The Olympic Legacy



The Beijing Olympic Games promoted the Olympic ideals and pushed forward China's economic and social development. More importantly, it left priceless tangible and cultural heritage. Without the support from the government and people, without the guidance of the three concepts of "Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics and People's Olympics", without cooperation with other countries and regions, the Beijing Olympic Games would not have reaped such great success.

The rich legacy from the Beijing Olympic Games is sure to nourish Beijing and the whole Chinese nation. Beijing citizens will enjoy state-of-the-art facilities for sports and cultural events and better transportation services, while all Chinese people will draw inspiration from the Olympic spirit and values.

The Olympic spirit of solidarity, friendship and peace were greatly promoted by the Beijing Olympic Games.

The Games provided an arena more for communication and friendship than for competition, which could

be seen in the friendship among athletes from different countries in the Beijing Olympic Village. The Olympic truce was also a contribution to world peace. The Olympic education programme with its 556 Olympic Education Model Schools disseminated Olympic knowledge among the 400 million Chinese youth, while the Heart-to-Heart Partnership Programme enhanced exchange among students from different countries. The Games also energised the Chinese people of all ages with sports in urban and rural areas alike, which in turn strengthened the Olympics' impact.

"Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics and People's Olympics" distinguished the Beijing Olympic Games from all the previous Games, which are sure to exert far-reaching impact in the development of Beijing and China.

To ensure the success of the Games, Beijing accelerated its efforts in urbanisation, building more city parks, developing an intelligent transportation system, using clean energy, setting up

a comprehensive information service system and adopting advanced technology in city construction, all of which accumulated rich experience for massive construction projects in the future.

During the preparation for the Games, the Beijing Municipal Government pushed forward cultural relics' protection, refurbishing hundreds of cultural treasures and historic architecture, including the Temple of Heaven, the Confucius Temple and the Imperial Academy. Some 10,000 staff, 70,000 Games-time volunteers and millions of city volunteers who worked for the Beijing Olympic Games, will be immeasurable human resources for the development of China. Moreover, the files, videos and photos recording the Games will help China to better host future worldwide events and conferences.

The Olympic Games is more a cultural event than a sports event. The six annual Olympic Cultural Festivals held from 2003 to 2008 introduced China's colourful and ancient culture to the world. The Olympic Youth Camp not only displayed the rich culture and distinctive customs of Beijing and China, but also promoted cultural exchange among the youths, a unique Olympic experience for the young people.

The Olympic spirit is a spirit of fair competition, an optimistic attitude toward life, a positive philosophy and a modern belief embodying harmony, freedom and health. The Olympic Movement is a common heritage of human civilisation. The tangible legacies of the newly achieved sports' records, the dedicated volunteers, the state-of-the-art facilities, and better urban planning as well as the spiritual legacies of improved civility, promoted politeness and the continued harmonious development of China are pieces of an invaluable heritage. Truly, as this heritage further blossoms, the success of the Beijing Olympic Games is also sure to boost China's sustainable development.

In the awards meeting for people who made outstanding contributions to the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games, Chinese President Hu Jintao said that the Games left colossal and rich heritage to the Chinese nation. Hu asked the Chinese people to sum up the treasured experience in organising the excellent Olympic and Paralympic Games and to continue to work hard to build China into an energy-



Layout of the Olympic venues in urban Beijing

saving and environmentally-friendly country. Hu further stated that the Olympic spirit would inspire the people to build China into a harmonious country, with an improved voluntary service system.



Milestones of the Beijing Olympic Games

July 13, 2001 – Beijing was awarded the Games of the XXIX Olympiad.

August 3, 2003 – The emblem of the Beijing Olympic Games was unveiled.

December, 2003 – Construction on the National Stadium began.

August 29, 2004 – The Athens Olympic Games was concluded, and Beijing started its Olympic journey.

June 26, 2005 – The Beijing Olympic slogan was publicised.

November 11, 2005 – Fuwa, the Olympic mascot, made its debut.

April 29, 2006 – The sports events of the Beijing Olympic Games were finalised.

August 7, 2006 – The pictograms of the sports of the Beijing Olympic Games were publicised.

March 27, 2007 – Jade medals for the Beijing Olympic Games made their debut.

April 15, 2007 – Online sales of the Beijing Olympic tickets were launched.

April 27, 2007 – The Beijing Olympic Torch Relay Route was unveiled.

March 24, 2008 – The Beijing Olympic Torch was lit and the worldwide torch relay kicked off.

April 23, 2008 – The Beijing Olympic ticket design was publicised.

June 28, 2008 – The construction of the National Stadium was completed.

July 8, 2008 – MPC and IBC started operation.

August 8, 2008 – The Opening Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games was held.

August 24, 2008 – The Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games was held.





Addendum

Ceremonies and Competitions: Celebration of the Games, Volume II of the *Official Report of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games*, was compiled and translated from November 2007 to September 2008. The writing group had kept on improving their version on the basis of the comments and advice from various parties and individuals concerned. The final edition was completed in May 2009 and its English translation was finished in October 2009.

Constructive suggestions have been solicited from leaders and experts of the Communist Party of China Beijing Municipal Committee, the Beijing Municipal Government, the General Administration of Sport of China and BOCOG. Contributing to this volume of the report are, among others, Liu Qi, Liu Peng, Guo Jinlong, Liu Jingmin, Wang Wei, Jiang Xiaoyu, Li Binghua and Yang Shu'an.

The report is compiled by the BOCOG Media & Communications Department. Xu Da has supervised the final review of this volume.

The writing of the Chinese version of this volume was accomplished by the writers from the newspaper, *The First*, with Liu Shunfa and Xie Xingwen as the leading members and Yan Zhiqiang and Shi Chunyang as the compiling editors. Engaged in the composition and data collection of this volume are Ren Jianghao, Zuo Jijun, Wang Muqing, Li Fei, Dong Yingshuang, Lu Ming, Yang Yi, Wang Yong, Cao Haipeng, Jia Ning, Lv Wei, Liu Jingtao, Su Zhenzhen, Wang Liang, Long Peipei and Li Jie.

Translation and revision of the report are done by Li Jing, Zheng Peilin, Liu Guoqiang, Liu Runzhi and others. The entire translation process has been under the coordination of Xiu Gang, Wang Zhiping, Xia Gang, Lin Xianguang and others.

后记

本卷报告的编撰工作始于2007年11月，至2008年9月完成中文稿。经多方征求意见，至2009年5月确定中文稿，同年10月确定英文稿。

北京市委、市政府，国家体育总局及北京奥组委等有关单位的领导和专家对本报告的编撰工作提出了有益的意见和建议。刘淇、刘鹏、郭金龙、刘敬民、王伟、蒋效愚、李炳华、杨树安等参加了评审工作。

本报告由北京奥组委新闻宣传部组织编写。徐达承担本卷的总体策划和组织协调工作。

《竞报》社组建写作团队，刘顺发、谢星文担任写作组组长，阎志强、史春阳担任统稿人。参加写作和图文资料收集工作的还有任江浩、左继军、王牧青、李飞、董英双、卢明、杨熠、汪泳、曹海鹏、贾宁、吕威、刘静涛、苏珍珍、王亮、龙培培、李洁等。

本报告英文文本由李晶、郑培林、刘国强、刘润芝等翻译，修刚、王志平、夏钢、林宪光等参加了翻译工作。



Evening, August 24, 2008 – The grand Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games





August 24, 2008 – Mr. Johnson, Mayor of London (left), waves the Olympic Flag at the Flag Handover segment of the Closing Ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games



图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

奥运庆典：北京奥运会仪式及赛事综述=Ceremonies and Competitions.Celebration of the Games.英文 / 第29届奥林匹克运动会组织委员会著. —北京：北京体育大学出版社，2010.8
ISBN 978-7-5644-0263-1

I. ①奥… II. ①第… III. ①夏季奥运会—概况—北京市—2008—英文 IV. ①G811.211

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2010) 第160049号

出版：北京体育大学出版社
地址：北京市海淀区信息路48号
邮编：100084 电话：010-62989261
责任编辑：刘润芝 审稿编辑：董英双 黄宗英
印刷：北京瑞禾彩色印刷有限公司
装订：北京鑫艺佳装订有限公司
版次：2010年8月第1版 2010年8月第1次印刷
开本：787×1092 1/8
印张：36
书号：ISBN 978-7-5644-0263-1

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